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Multilingualism

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Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 65/311, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its sixty-seventh session, a comprehensive report on the implementation of its resolutions on multilingualism. The report provides an update on the activities undertaken to promote multilingualism since the submission of the previous report on this subject (A/65/488), in 2010.

II. Multilingualism at the United Nations

A. Coordination of multilingualism

2. In response to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 61/266, the Secretary-General in 2008 appointed the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information as Coordinator for Multilingualism. Following his departure, the incoming Under-Secretary-General was appointed by the Secretary-General, in August 2012, as the new Coordinator for Multilingualism, ensuring continuity.

3. In the interim period, the Department of Public Information continued to take a coordinating role working with the informal network of departmental focal points on multilingualism.

4. The present report highlights activities undertaken to promote multilingualism by departments and offices within the Secretariat. The examples are aimed at presenting an overview of actions taken on key dimensions of multilingualism.

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B. Human resources management

5. According to the most recent survey conducted by the Office of Human Resources Management, some 160 languages are spoken by staff members at the Secretariat. The multilingualism among staff helps to promote international understanding, dialogue, unity and mutual tolerance in a diverse environment.

1. Training

6. The language and communications programmes for staff members has continued to expand. Since February 2012, language learning reference resources have been posted on the language programme website at Headquarters to help, in particular, field-based staff members who do not have access to on-site training. Language teachers and coordinators also support those responsible for language courses in other offices, including field missions where language programmes needs have been increasing. During the reporting period, the language programme at Headquarters piloted a training-of-trainers to enable full-time teachers to pass along acquired knowledge to colleagues outside their duty stations, including in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Other pilot projects have been initiated to align all language courses with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, a reference tool launched in 1991 by the Council of Europe, which provides internationally recognized standards of language proficiency.

7. Since September 2010, a total of 10,317 registrations in 938 language courses, ranging from regular language classes grouped by proficiency levels to classes focused on specific skills, such as pronunciation and report writing, have been processed at the New York Headquarters.

2. Recruitment

8. The United Nations careers portal (http://careers.un.org) is fully bilingual in English and French. Secretariat job openings are published in these two working languages, as well as instructions and all other tools designed to facilitate the applications of potential candidates. Information on recruitment policies is available on the Organization's website in the six official languages. All job openings indicate that French and English are the two working languages of the Secretariat.

3. Outreach

9. Emphasis on the importance of multilingualism has been a key element of human resources outreach. Many outreach missions have been expanded to focus on regions, countries and universities that attract multilingual individuals. In the two previous years, there have been missions to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Spain, Panama and Costa Rica, and further missions are planned to other regions. The Office of Human Resources Management places advertisements in news media, including French-language newspapers, to encourage applicants with a range of language skills. Language positions in the Secretariat are also advertised on multilingual websites, such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Radio spots were also

prepared and disseminated in all the official languages to advertise the Young Professionals programme.

4. Staffing

10. In the context of workforce planning, the linguistic skills of current and rostered staff are taken into account. One recent example was the increased requirements for Arabic-speaking staff following the establishment of new peacekeeping and political missions in the Middle East and North Africa region that triggered a special information session for those interested and qualified.

5. Capital master plan

11. As part of the capital master plan, the installation of new technical equipment, including the congress microphone and simultaneous interpretation system at Headquarters, will improve working conditions for the interpreters and provide high-quality audiovisual and broadcast of language services. In an effort to meet international standards, the booths of the interpreters in the Conference and General Assembly Buildings will be enlarged structurally to the extent possible.

C. Department for General Assembly and Conference Management

1. Conference services

12. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management is mandated to provide high-quality language and conference services to the United Nations. This includes interpretation, translation, editing, verbatim reporting and other language-support services. The Secretariat must ensure that equal treatment is given to all six official languages, as reiterated by the General Assembly on several occasions, most recently in its resolution 66/233 on the pattern of conferences. With the Assembly's approval, the Department continues actively to pursue the integrated global management of language and conference services, including various information technology-intensive modernization initiatives that seek to deliver significant processing efficiencies.

2. Official documentation

13. The ability of the Department to provide Member States with high-quality language services in a timely manner has been tested by factors such as the open-ended meeting mandate granted to the Human Rights Council, whereby there is no limit to the number of meetings the Council can hold.

14. With respect to the provision of parliamentary documents to intergovernmental bodies, the Department remains in strict compliance with the rule of simultaneous distribution, under which no one language version of a document may be circulated in advance of others.

15. Through proactive document-management measures, including the introduction of workload sharing, capacity-planning and the establishment of an interdepartmental task force on documentation, the Department seeks to ensure greater predictability and more efficient use of resources in the processing of documents that are critical to effective multilingual communication among delegations.

16. The Department has also managed to increase its overall compliance with the mandated issuance dates of multilingual documents (from 61 per cent in 2007 and 60 per cent in 2008 to 67 per cent in 2009, 69 per cent in 2010 and 73 per cent in 2011) despite continuing challenges stemming from the need sometimes to process unforeseen, urgent or inordinately lengthy documents.

3. Outreach and succession planning

17. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management remains committed to the principle that language staff should be recruited only through international competitive examinations, conducted to help maintain its high standards in delivering language services.

18. In 2007, the Department launched its Outreach to Universities programme, an unprecedented effort implemented entirely within existing resources and based on pro bono work by dedicated staff members. The programme aims at assisting more than 15 partner universities, including Beijing Foreign Studies University (China), Minsk State Linguistic University (Belarus), Saint Joseph University (Lebanon), University of Damascus (Syrian Arab Republic) and University of Nairobi (Kenya), by helping to equip language students with the skills required by the United Nations language services in all six official languages. The programme also strives to create synergies with the Department's annual training plan by offering serving staff a broader range of training opportunities to enhance their language skills.

19. In addition, the Department, in cooperation with its partners within the International Annual Meeting on Language Arrangements, Documentation and Publications, has been undertaking efforts to launch the Consortium of African Universities, including an interpreter training programme, based in Nairobi, to be piloted in several universities in sub-Saharan Africa. The Consortium is expected to help enlarge the pool of qualified interpreters trained in Africa who could be retained to service multilingual conferences held on the continent and/or for potential recruitment by intergovernmental organizations.

20. The Department has taken a proactive approach to attracting and retaining language professionals given that the rate of its forecast retirements over the period from 2012 to 2017, at 4.6 per cent per year, is more than double the overall Secretariat rate of 1.8 per cent per year. By 2017, 23 per cent of current language staff will have retired. In 2010, it commissioned a comprehensive study on revamping the current system of language competitive examinations which included a recommendation to implement a vigorous programme of outreach to universities to better prepare candidates for United Nations Language Competitive Examinations through an internship programme specific to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

D. Peacekeeping, security, political, legal and ethics offices and departments

1. Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support

21. Of the 17 peacekeeping operations and the special political missions administered by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, 5 operate in French-speaking countries. Approximately 60 per cent of all peacekeepers are deployed in

French-speaking countries, yet the majority of peacekeepers deployed in such countries do not speak French. The Department is working to secure more French-speaking peacekeeping troops and police.

22. Over the years, Francophone troop- and police-contributing countries have voiced concern that guidelines, manuals and training materials are frequently available only in English. Stemming from this need, in 2010 the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support created a working group on the use of French, with representatives from all offices and divisions. As a result of its efforts, 75 policy and doctrine documents were translated, and training documents were also translated into the five official languages other than English.

23. Many individual peacekeeping and political missions have undertaken special efforts to promote multilingualism. For example, in July 2010, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) announced its intention to promote the use of French as a working language within the Mission and in any communications with Headquarters. Since then, the Mission has effectively promoted French-language training for all personnel. Likewise, MINUSTAH encourages the use of Creole in some important communications, including public statements, fact sheets or news articles. Communications between Headquarters and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), as well as between Headquarters and MONUSCO, are also conducted in French.

24. All internal communications within the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) are conducted in English and Tetum, which is the most spoken language in the country. UNMIT also translates its most important documents into Portuguese and/or Tetum, the two official languages in the country. About 80 languages are spoken by over 2,800 mission staff, reflecting the diversity of their origins. In addition, the national Timorese staff speak about 30 local languages. Within the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), while all internal communications are conducted in English, other communications are often conducted in French, Spanish and Arabic. Typically in virtually all United Nations peacekeeping missions, public information outreach efforts are conducted in several languages. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) supports the operation of Radio Miraya, which broadcasts in Arabic and English, with some features and public service announcements produced in local languages.

25. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations produces content for the United Nations peacekeeping website (www.un.org/peacekeeping). With the assistance of the Department of Public Information, some of the information on the site is translated from English into the other official languages. Of the 16 peacekeeping missions, 3 also have local bilingual websites.

2. Department of Political Affairs

26. The Department of Political Affairs continued to strengthen its efforts on multilingualism. The changes in the Arab world and the related demand for Arabic language skills have led the Department to further invest in a multilingual staff. Providing electoral assistance to Member States, for example, the Department has deployed Arabic-speaking experts to support authorities in conducting elections in countries such as Libya, Tunisia and Yemen. It has also pursued efforts to expand the pool of fluent Arabic speakers in its roster of electoral experts.

27. Proficiency in the official languages allows the Department's desk officers to follow political developments in major regions of the world. Staff members also possess working knowledge of non-official languages that are essential in certain contexts. The 12 political missions and peacebuilding offices operating under the supervision of the Department of Political Affairs in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, carry out their work in official and non-official languages according to the exigencies of each country environment. For the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS), for example, communicating in Somali is crucial to supporting the country's political process. The outreach activities of the Office include the dissemination of materials in Somali.

28. The Department's roster of mediation experts provides further illustration of the efforts of the Organization to promote multilingualism. The roster's 240 members represent over 70 nationalities speaking more than 60 languages.

29. Multilingual staff at the Department are also vital to servicing United Nations bodies, including the Security Council and Committees of the General Assembly. As part of its responsibilities to support the Security Council, the Department publishes the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* in all six official languages.

30. The Department also maintains the United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine (UNISPAL) in English and French.

3. Office for Disarmament Affairs

31. The Office for Disarmament Affairs organizes, in all six official languages, a variety of special events and programmes in the field of disarmament, produces publications like the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* and maintains databases for specialized areas. In August 2011, an updated Disarmament Education website was launched in all six official languages.

32. In furtherance of its mandate on disarmament and non-proliferation education, the Office has launched a partnership with the University of Tokyo to translate the testimony of atomic bomb survivors into English for dissemination through the Disarmament Education website. In addition, the students of Tokyo University have been in the process of translating the Office's January 2012 publication *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* into Japanese.

33. From June to December 2011, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific designed and conducted a "Volunteers for Peace" education and outreach project on conflict resolution in Kathmandu, Nepal, through which university students were trained in the local language.

34. The Office organized for the translation of the flyer for the "Art for Peace 2012" contest for young people into 29 different languages, making it accessible across the globe with entries from 92 countries. The contest called on children and young people to use their creative talents to "Imagine a World Free of Nuclear Weapons".

4. Peacebuilding Support Office

35. The Peacebuilding Support Office continued its efforts to promote multilingualism, particularly through the support for key national reconciliation

initiatives in various countries, including education and dialogue projects in Libya and Yemen, both conducted in Arabic.

36. The Office continued to engage global experts and arranged meetings with translation services where many of them provided briefings in various languages, in some of the official languages and beyond, about the relevant peacebuilding issues concerning the six countries currently on the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission (Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone), as well as other countries currently receiving support from the Peacebuilding Fund.

37. In support of the Secretary-General's seven-point action plan on women's participation in peacebuilding, the Office, together with UN-Women, developed a series of outreach products for distribution in countries eligible for the Peacebuilding Fund. The products included a gender-responsive peacebuilding calendar, posters and pens which were produced in Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

38. The Peacebuilding Support Office continued to work with the Department of Public Information to translate the content of its website and those of the Peacebuilding Commission and Fund in all six official languages.

39. As part of its responsibilities to support Member States, the Office publishes its documentation in all six official languages. It also strives to make documentation for its workshops available in the official languages.

5. Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict

40. The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict maintains a website, in which all key sections have been kept in the six official languages. Press statements, mission reports and new media links are not yet available in all six languages owing to capacity constraints. The Office has been working on launching a new website, which will allow for a more efficient management of all language versions of the site.

41. Given the broad geographic coverage of the Office, staff members have been encouraged to learn different languages and most staff already have a working knowledge of three of the official languages.

6. Office of Legal Affairs

42. The Office of Legal Affairs encourages the development of international law and its codification by providing secretariat services. The Office's publications include the *United Nations Juridical Yearbook*, the *Summaries of Judgments, Advisory Opinions and Orders of the International Court of Justice*, *International Instruments related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism* and *The Work of the International Law Commission*. All of these are available in the six official languages and other publications are also translated into several different languages.

43. The Office of Legal Affairs also hosts the Audiovisual Library of International Law, which contains a permanent collection of recorded lectures from different regions and legal systems in the official languages. These lectures are transcribed

and translated to the extent possible depending on available resources. The historic archives of the Audiovisual Library publishes introductory and procedural history notes in all official languages. Legal and audiovisual materials are provided in all official languages, where available.

44. The Office of Legal Affairs conducted the United Nations Regional Course in International Law for Africa in Addis Ababa in 2011 and 2012 in English and French, respectively.

45. The Office continued to publish in the United Nations *Treaty Series* the authentic texts of treaties and international agreements (approximately 142 languages) that have been registered or filed and recorded with the Secretariat, together with translations into English and French, as required. The Office publishes in English and French the monthly *Statement of Treaties and International Agreements*, the depositary notifications and the annual *Treaty Event* publication. A regional training course in Colombia on treaty law was conducted in English and Spanish in November 2011.

46. The International Trade Law Division of the Office of Legal Affairs, acting as the secretariat for the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), publishes all adopted texts and a number of supporting texts in all official languages of the United Nations. Most of the content of the UNCITRAL website is available in the six official languages. The UNCITRAL website is among the most important electronic sources on international trade law in all United Nations languages.

7. Ethics Office

47. In April 2012, the Ethics Office updated and revised its internal and external websites, making them accessible in all six official languages, in order to reach the broadest audience possible and help to ensure that all staff members perform their functions consistent with the highest standards of integrity as required by the Charter of the United Nations.

48. In collaboration with the Office of Human Resources Management, the Ethics Office promotes and provides ethics education to United Nations staff members. The workshop entitled Working Together: Professional Ethics and Integrity in our Daily Work is presented in both English and French to staff members globally at the Headquarters level and in the field. The Office regularly provides staff briefings on its activities, with specific emphasis on the financial disclosure programme. These briefings are conducted in both French and English by the staff members of the Office. The 11-member staff of the Office provides confidential ethics advice in Cantonese, Chichewa, English, French, Indonesian, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

E. Humanitarian, human rights, economic and social offices

1. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

49. Throughout the reporting period, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs made progress in making its information products available in all official languages in over 50 countries. The Office's flagship brochure, *This is*

OCHA, is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. *OCHA in 2012 and 2013*, its main planning document, is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. Press releases, reports, appeals, policy studies, evaluations, fact sheets, presentations, maps and infographics are produced as required in Arabic, English, French or Spanish and translated in other languages as appropriate. In the occupied Palestinian territory, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs also translates much of its content into Arabic and Hebrew. The civil-military guidelines of the Office are available in Chinese, English and Spanish.

50. The Office provides multilingual support for World Humanitarian Day (19 August). In 2011, it developed and disseminated publicity materials for the occasion in all the official languages, including a website and posters.

51. While the Office corporate website is in English, it also features content in Arabic, French and Spanish. Some field and regional websites are in Arabic, French or Spanish. The Office also manages two other popular websites that support the humanitarian community with multilingual content: ReliefWeb and the Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN). ReliefWeb provides comprehensive information about humanitarian emergencies and had 9.3 million site visits in 2011. ReliefWeb has recently been redesigned and includes separate interfaces for French and Spanish content. It contains documents in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. IRIN is an online humanitarian news and analysis service that delivers reports to more than 1 million online readers worldwide. The service is delivered in Arabic, English and French. The Office and IRIN also produce multilingual films and video, when possible in Arabic, English and French, to raise global awareness of humanitarian issues.

2. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

52. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continues to arrange for the translation and dissemination of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into multiple languages. As of June 2012, this document was available in 384 languages.

53. The Office organized Human Rights Council sessions, treaty body sessions and other conferences during the reporting period, and most of the Council resolutions were made available in all six official languages as they were being considered.

54. The majority of treaty bodies have adopted English, French and Spanish as their working languages while others have chosen four or more of the official languages. Usually, all official correspondence between a treaty body through its Secretariat and States parties to the Convention/Covenant is prepared in English, French or Spanish as required. The main treaty body output, *Concluding Observations* are published in all official languages, and their compilations are translated by regional offices into the languages relevant to the concerned States parties.

55. The Office provided human rights training on a number of issues to staff members worldwide and others, including government officials, civil society representatives and human rights experts, in the six official languages with interpretation in others, including Aymara, Portuguese, Quechua and Thai.

56. Every year, the Office conducts two Fellowship programmes in several linguistic components, namely the Minorities Fellowship programme conducted in

Arabic and English, and the Indigenous Fellowship programme conducted in English, French, Russian and Spanish.

57. The website of the Office is available in all six official languages. However, not all content is consistently presented in all of the official languages. The *Universal Human Rights Index* database hosted on the Office's main website was upgraded in 2011 and is now available in all six official languages.

58. The Office also produces audiovisual materials, including documentaries, news and human interest stories, and training and educational videos in several languages. A series of three animated educational videos on the human rights system was produced in 2011 with audio in English and subtitles in 14 languages. For the International Year for People of African Descent in 2011, the Office produced a public service announcement in English and French. A number of videos are also produced by field offices in local languages.

59. The Office has sought to engage users worldwide through their respective languages since it established a social media presence in April 2011, and has been able to provide messages in the six official languages for major social media campaigns, such as Human Rights Day 2011. Through social media, the Office has repeatedly shared the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is available in 384 languages, to encourage people across the globe to speak up for human rights in their own languages.

3. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

60. The website of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs continues to have most of its content, in particular news stories, available in all official languages. Within the past year, more than 100 stories were translated into most of the six official languages. Aside from English, the Spanish-language content has been the most sought after, while Arabic has shown the greatest increase in audience.

61. The Department has made special efforts to publish material in a variety of languages. For example, the United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat created the International Year of Forests 2011 logo in 54 language versions to ensure the occasion was multilingual and inclusive. The Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues has also released various informational and specialized materials and publications, such as brochures, training modules and handbooks in English, French, Spanish and Russian in order to reach out to a higher number of indigenous populations.

62. The Department's Division for Social Policy and Development publishes and maintains the United Nations Enable website (www.un.org/disabilities) in all official languages. In addition, as a contribution to the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, sign language interpretation service is provided for the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, official meetings of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant events.

4. United Nations Office at Geneva

63. The United Nations Office at Geneva has been fully committed to supporting multilingualism as reflected in its annual report of 2011 entitled "Meeting Current Challenges Together". The Office continued to make strides to meet the expanding meeting and documentation requests for all human rights bodies, the United Nations

Conference on Trade and Development, and the Economic Commission for Europe. It made significant progress in enhancing the efficiency of its translation services. This was accomplished through a far-reaching training strategy and promotion of the use of translation technology among translators in coordination with New York Headquarters, the United Nations Office in Vienna and other international organizations.

64. A major achievement for the United Nations Office at Geneva was the adoption of UNOGTerm, a multilingual terminology management system. As a result, nearly 150 terminology files in official languages were merged and restructured, making it possible to conduct searches on the UNTERM portal, a common one-stop terminology platform centrally managed at Headquarters.

65. UNOG has been celebrating language days since 2010 following the launch of the Language Days at the United Nations initiative. Round tables on multilingualism have been organized each year. The Office also provided language support to 42 human rights missions or fields visits to 34 countries.

66. The Office has pursued a proactive approach to documentation management, including with language provisions to help promote multilingualism. As highlighted in the annual report on document management for 2011, the overall submission compliance in accordance with the mandated time frame was 74 per cent in 2011.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

67. The membership of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) comprises 14 linguistically homogenous countries, which all give priority to teaching foreign languages in their educational systems. Since its establishment, the Commission has adopted three working languages, namely, Arabic, English and French.

68. The Commission produces documents and publications in Arabic and English, covering a broad range of general and technical subjects related to social and economic development. Translation into French is reserved only for the report on the biennial session of ESCWA and other major documents as the Commission does not have an established post for translation into that language. ESCWA produces a range of technical papers, training and informational material in both Arabic and English. Additionally, it contributes to Arabic translations of flagship reports of the Secretary-General relating to major development issues as well as relevant promotional materials as required.

69. The Commission also provides training and the evaluation of translators, interpreters and other experts in language functions in Arabic, English and French in cooperation with universities throughout the region.

70. The Commission has taken a set of measures to promote multilingualism through the recruitment of staff from a diverse pool of linguistic backgrounds. Job opening announcements are issued in English and French and sometimes in Arabic. They contain a qualification requirement for candidates to be fluent in the three official languages of ESCWA, or at least two of them. The Commission offers regular language courses to all staff in Arabic, English, French and Spanish in cooperation with professional academic institutes. The majority of the ESCWA staff are bilingual (Arabic and English) and many are trilingual (Arabic, English and French).

71. In all intergovernmental and expert group meetings held by the Commission, interpretation services are provided in Arabic and English, and occasionally in French, as well as in addition to other official languages as the situation requires and capacity allows. The ESCWA weekly news bulletin is issued in Arabic and English while press releases are issued in the three official languages. The Commission's website is regularly updated in Arabic and English. The Commission also maintains a presence in social media in Arabic and English.

6. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

72. According to rule 44 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), "Chinese, English, French and Russian shall be the working languages of the Commission". The ESCAP annual report and the reports of the various intergovernmental meetings held throughout the year have all been produced in the four official languages of the Commission. Its language units are often called on to provide language services to subregional offices on an ad hoc basis.

73. Although English is the most used language at the Commission, many of its programmes are carried out in Member States where the local languages and dialects would be more appropriate for effective communication.

7. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

74. All Professional staff members and most local staff of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) are required to be fluent in English and Spanish, except in the English-speaking subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, where Spanish proficiency can be at a more basic level. French and Portuguese are treated as assets, although Portuguese is required for work in the ECLAC Brasilia office. Portuguese classes have been offered at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago and provisions for Arabic-language classes have been approved for the 2013 training cycle.

75. The Commission has continued its efforts to disseminate public information in multiple languages in order to target the widest possible audience in Latin America and the Caribbean. For example, by the end of 2011, the Commission had distributed 152 press releases in Spanish, 141 of them were also available in English and 18 in Portuguese. The institutional newsletter, *ECLAC Notes*, which is published every three months, was produced in all three languages and the most relevant speeches and editorial articles by the Executive Secretary are available in English and Spanish.

76. For the last decades, the Commission has been publishing six annual flagship reports in English and Spanish. In 2012, a new *Macroeconomic Report*, published three times a year, was released in two languages. The *CEPAL Review*, along with the corresponding Spanish version, the *Revista CEPAL*, has been published three times a year since 1976. Efforts have been made in recent years to translate the Commission's most important publications into French as well. In addition, a special edition of the *CEPAL Review* has been translated into Chinese. All official documents for the Commission's biennial session are produced in English, French and Spanish and many publications are now produced in Portuguese as well, including the summaries of all flagship publications, which are now launched simultaneously to the press.

77. The Commission strives to ensure that all job opening announcements are published simultaneously in English, French and Spanish. In addition, all training materials from Santiago headquarters have been translated into Spanish. ECLAC produces press releases and public information materials in English and Spanish which are uploaded to the various sections of its website.

78. The Commission has added new social media to its communication tools actively maintaining accounts on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Flickr in English and Spanish.

III. Multilingualism and communication

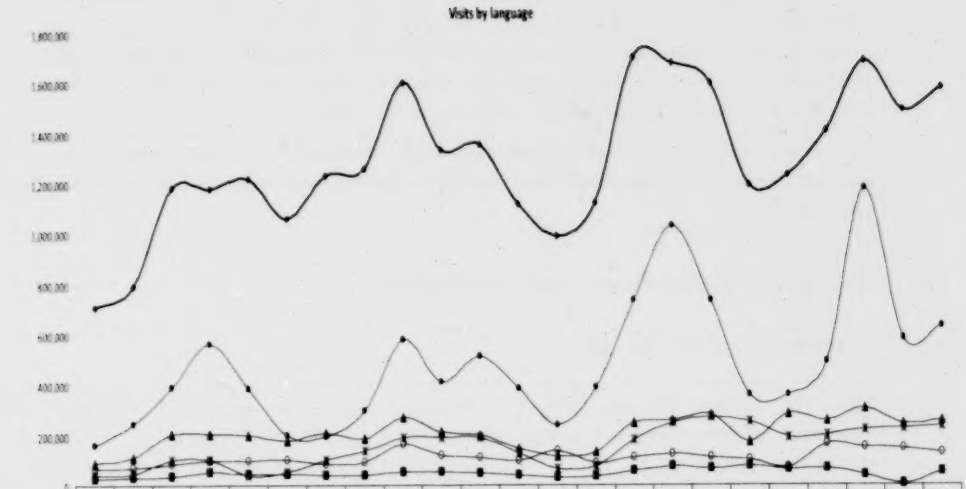
A. Internal communication

79. The United Nations intranet, iSeek, as well as deleGATE (intranet for delegates in New York), maintains pages in English and French. All articles are translated into either French or English and both versions are published at the same time. iSeek launched "The Corner" in 2011, a page where staff members can submit more personal stories in any of the six official languages.

B. Public information and outreach

80. The United Nations website remained one of the key focus areas for the Department of Public Information as it continued its efforts regarding multilingualism. The majority of web pages prepared by the Department are multilingual. In 2011, the introduction of a custom-developed content management system helped to streamline the process of organizing and posting content in all six official languages. Work is progressing in consolidating web content on common platforms for better coordination among languages. Multilingual captioning has now become routine for videos and photo galleries on the home page and for the Secretary-General's video messages, as well as for other key videos posted on the UN Channel on YouTube.

81. By December 2010, adding the Google Analytics code was completed on virtually all of the United Nations website. This has enabled a more inclusive and efficient tracking of language usage.



	2010 | 07	2010 | 08	2010 | 09	2010 | 10	2010 | 11	2010 | 12	2011 | 01	2011 | 02	2011 | 03	2011 | 04	2011 | 05	2011 | 06	2011 | 07	2011 | 08	2011 | 09	2011 | 10	2011 | 11	2011 | 12	2012 | 01	2012 | 02	2012 | 03	2012 | 04	2012 | 05
Arabic /ar	29,656	29,276	36,706	51,475	44,667	44,724	41,378	45,383	53,292	51,770	50,587	37,930	30,626	33,121	56,704	76,836	66,632	73,675	63,668	64,650	37,823	4,694	53,097
Chinese /zh	66,742	70,527	83,607	97,192	97,103	103,092	84,791	93,950	163,091	118,371	111,472	97,085	137,675	90,319	110,038	125,570	108,678	101,218	71,193	165,209	149,713	147,407	129,110
English /en	707,723	787,721	1,183,470	1,177,122	1,217,387	1,057,463	1,230,631	1,258,261	1,601,738	1,330,413	1,355,791	1,114,191	989,912	1,118,953	1,699,206	1,675,557	1,597,154	1,192,743	1,231,290	1,405,426	1,686,594	1,491,691	1,578,310
French /fr	89,293	112,184	202,835	204,996	197,045	176,755	207,920	184,694	267,707	209,603	197,730	147,067	114,176	132,470	247,177	257,664	277,214	173,960	281,403	257,015	302,514	242,376	257,049
Russian /ru	37,906	44,903	101,194	103,148	38,015	51,603	101,031	138,172	188,797	191,651	190,394	129,423	65,099	73,200	180,443	245,747	268,816	249,646	191,579	198,527	218,947	223,192	232,763
Spanish /es	157,815	243,124	389,630	561,639	385,622	196,746	195,376	294,233	577,773	409,800	512,936	381,994	239,394	389,535	731,580	1,026,451	733,541	356,798	357,297	491,585	1,177,088	581,127	628,842

82. The Department of Public Information also took steps to enhance its multilingual products in television services, including feature programming. With the addition of Arabic and Chinese versions, the *UN in Action* series is now produced in all six official languages. The news magazine *21st Century* has added a separately produced French version, which is distributed globally through a partnership with TV5Monde. The Department also provides broadcasters with Spanish-language scripts of the full programme. Furthermore, the Department offers international split-track versions of the magazine programme, which are being used by interested broadcasters to create programmes in their own languages. The Department has been actively exploring co-production opportunities to produce Arabic and Spanish versions of the programme.

83. Daily coverage of breaking news and other developments related to the work of the United Nations continued in all official languages, as well as Portuguese and Kiswahili, on the *UN News Centre* portal and by *UN Radio*, which also produced programming in Urdu, Hindi, Bangla and Indonesian. Fast, accurate, balanced and comprehensive summaries of intergovernmental sessions and conferences, as well as press briefings, special events, and statements and activities of the Secretary-General, were produced as press releases in English and French. To promote the work of the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, and the activities of its President, the Department produced a press kit, which was for the first time available in its entirety in the six official languages on the United Nations website in 2011. The Department continued to provide live and on-demand webcast coverage of meetings, conferences and events in English and the original language of the speakers. It also made every possible effort to use its existing technical and staffing resources to make the speeches available in other languages.

84. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information developed online and print materials in multiple languages for several important campaigns. To illustrate, for Rio+20 (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development), the Department produced a brochure and an electronic press kit in the six official languages and Portuguese, a campaign logo in all six languages and nine European languages (Swedish, Norwegian, Portuguese, Icelandic, Danish, Finnish, Italian, Dutch and German) and bilingual press kits in English/French and Spanish/Portuguese. For the campaign marking the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to Minorities, the Department, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, developed a logo, poster, banner and kit cover in all six languages.

85. In 2012, the Department of Public Information produced a card highlighting, in 10 short phrases, key daily actions the United Nations undertakes to address global challenges. These "Every Day" cards, which provide powerful messages in compact format, have become a popular and cost-effective outreach tool. The Department developed a design that adds visual elements to the message of the cards, thereby providing more graphic impact for larger-scale products, such as posters, banners or electronic reproduction. All these products are available in the six official languages.

86. The United Nations has been increasing its efforts to make its social media presence reflect its multilingualism. The content posted by the Department of Public Information on social media sites has been followed worldwide by a steadily increasing audience in all six official languages. The postings on multilingual new media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Weibo (in Chinese) feature multiple links to related pages on the United Nations website that contain more detailed information about the relevant topics and issues. In addition to the six official languages, the Department produces social media content in seven additional languages on a regular basis (German, Japanese, Kiswahili, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovakian and Slovenian). Across all major platforms, the United Nations messages are seen by more than 3 million people.

87. Social media campaigns in support of General Assembly priorities and mandates have been conducted in multiple languages. For example, the campaign for Rio+20, The Future We Want, had more than 50 million participants in the "global conversation" in the six official languages and Portuguese. After the launch of the multilingual Let's Fight Racism website, a social media campaign in all six official languages was led by the Department of Public Information in partnership with the OHCHR. The campaign held in the lead-up to the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, on 21 March 2012, was called "7 days & 7 ways to Fight Racism" and reached over 3 million on Twitter alone.

C. Documents and publications

88. The Department of Public Information offers United Nations publication for sale in all official languages. During the reporting period, 33 contracts were signed for 48 individual United Nations publications. The translation agreements led to 16 additional language editions of many flagship publications in Albanian, Arabic, Basque, French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Polish,

Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Vietnamese and Welsh, many of which are also available electronically. Licensing agreements also increased the Organization's visibility worldwide by generating approximately 42,000 additional printed and several thousand digital copies at zero or negligible cost to the Organization.

89. The most recent (2011) edition of *Basic Facts about the United Nations* — one of the most popular United Nations publications — is available in English, French and Japanese, with Spanish and Azerbaijani, Dutch, Hindi, Italian and Korean versions forthcoming. Selected chapters are also available online in Hungarian. In addition to the English and French versions of that publication, other eBook publications range from the *United Nations Charter* (English, French and Spanish) to *Score the Goals*, a comic book application (Chinese, English, French, German, Korean and Spanish). The *UN Chronicle*, the quarterly magazine of the United Nations, is available in English and French, both in print and online. Spanish editions of all 2011 issues are available online and a Korean edition has also been published in print and online. To date, resource constraints have impeded the production of the online Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions. The 2012 educational calendar, *The United Nations Making a Difference*, is a recent addition to the United Nations publications portfolio. The calendar was issued in all official languages in print form, and the English version was made available online. An Azerbaijani version was also published in print.

D. United Nations information centres

90. The network of 62 United Nations information centres continues to transmit information on the work of the Organization to people around the world in both official and local languages. These information centres currently maintain websites in 31 local languages and since 2011, have translated documents into 38 languages other than the six official languages and continue to produce newsletters in 16 local languages.

91. Moreover, an increasing number of information centres employ social media tools in their work: 28 information centres and services have Facebook accounts (Ankara, Baku, Beirut, Bogotá, Brussels, Bucharest, Buenos Aires, Cairo, Colombo, Dar es Salaam, Jakarta, La Paz, Lima, Lusaka, Manila, Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi, Prague, Pretoria, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Tunis, Vienna, Warsaw, Washington, D.C., Yaoundé and Yerevan); 18 have Twitter accounts (Ankara, Bogotá, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Canberra, Geneva, Jakarta, La Paz, Manama, Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi, Pretoria, Rio de Janeiro, Tunis, Vienna, Washington, D.C., and Yerevan); and 12 have YouTube accounts (Bogotá, Brussels, Buenos Aires, Jakarta, Kathmandu, La Paz, Lima, Mexico City, Rio de Janeiro, Tokyo, Washington, D.C., and Yerevan) in languages other than English.

92. The information centres are also instrumental in translating and placing op-eds by the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials. During the reporting period, the op-eds were translated by the information centres into 15 local languages.

E. International observances

93. All websites produced to commemorate international observances had versions in the six official languages. Promotional materials featured on the websites included, for example, an information kit for the International Day of Democracy (15 September) and a new visual identity for the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (2011-2020).

94. In 2011, a videoconference was organized for the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, at which students in New York were linked to a site in Colombia with Spanish interpretation. The following year, to mark the occasion, a website was published in the six official languages, postcards produced in English, French and Spanish, and relevant radio interviews posted on the *UN Radio* website in English, Fante, French, Kiswahili, Portuguese and Spanish. A travelling exhibit was also translated into Turkish and displayed at Ankara's Kizilay Metro station.

F. Visitors Services

95. The Visitors Services Section at United Nations Headquarters employs multilingual staff members. Tour guides speak at least one additional language other than English, and many speak three or four fluently. The Section receives daily queries in a wide range of languages and, whenever possible, staff endeavour to answer them in the same. Commonly languages used in Visitors Services in New York, in addition to the six official languages, include Albanian, Dutch, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese and Swedish. Publications, brochures, fact sheets and posters in the official languages are also distributed. In addition to the official languages, guided tours are offered across all four headquarters duty stations (Geneva, Nairobi, New York, Vienna) in German, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Kiswahili, Korean, Portuguese, Slovak and Slovenian, to name the most popular languages.

G. Educational outreach

96. In 2010, the educational outreach programme UN4U offered a bilingual option for the first time in New York, with one of the speakers delivering his presentation in English and Spanish. Students at schools and learning centres in the New York area were also briefed about the United Nations in English, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish.

97. The Department's outreach programme the Holocaust and the United Nations has produced several educational resources in all the official languages, including eight discussion papers and three educational DVDs and companion study guides. One of the DVDs was also produced in Romanian and one of the study guides was published in Czech. In addition, two Holocaust exhibitions were produced in English, French, Russian and Spanish for the global network of United Nations information centres. These resources are available on the website of the Holocaust programme, which is accessible in all six official languages.

H. Library

98. The United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library completed the digitization of the General Assembly Official Records Supplements of the first to forty-seventh sessions in English, French and Spanish. The United Nations Office at Geneva Library, which collaborates with the Dag Hammarskjöld Library in this programme, is completing the digitization of the same documents series in Arabic, Chinese and Russian. It is also digitizing official documents of the Conference on Disarmament, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights in all official languages. All digitized parliamentary documents, including all Security Council documents from 1946 to 1993, are available in all official languages.

99. The Library conducts training in English, French and Spanish for staff members, Permanent Missions, non-governmental organizations and students on how to access and use United Nations documents and information. Training programmes offered to depository libraries have been carried out in Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Research and reference services are also provided in the language in which a request was received, most commonly in English, French and Spanish.

IV. Conclusions

100. The conclusions of the previous report on multilingualism (A/65/488) remain valid. As highlighted in the present report, the United Nations has increasingly improved and sought creative ways to promote multilingualism in all areas of its work, keeping in mind the importance of communicating to the peoples of the world in their own languages, including in various accessible formats to help bring the Organization closer to the people it serves. Informing and reaching different audiences in the six official languages, as well as in local languages, through traditional and new media is essential to inspiring and engaging the world in the aims, purposes and work of the Organization. Promoting multilingualism is, moreover, closely linked to respecting cultural diversity and promoting intercultural dialogue.

101. Efforts to promote multilingualism are vital for fostering diversity and plurality within the United Nations. The Secretariat continues to make every effort to make content available in all six official languages in a timely manner while ensuring quality interpretation and translation. These measures are taken with a view to enabling the Organization to provide the best possible support to Member States, particularly in their deliberative bodies, and to project the work and values of the United Nations to the largest audience. The United Nations also uses formal and informal ways to reach out to the global public, the United Nations community and staff in the official languages and beyond through its outreach programmes and initiatives.

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Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Strengthening of the United Nations system

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Security Council
Sixty-eighth year

Civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Events of the past year have confirmed my view that developing civilian capacity is crucial for the global journey away from conflict. Without nationally owned transformation of the institutions that provide citizens with political representation, security, justice and economic opportunities, there can be no sustained recovery from conflict.

The present report describes progress in the civilian capacity initiative since my previous report (A/66/311-S/2011/527). At the country level, the United Nations system organizations have been working together to support national ownership of priorities in post-conflict and post-crisis transitions. For example, in North Africa, they have supported national planning and the exchange of relevant experiences with other countries on such crucial issues as broad political dialogue and electoral processes. In Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire, United Nations missions and country teams have worked together to support the development of nationally driven security and justice institution-building programmes.

Such country-level work underlines that civilian capacities and institution-building pathways cannot be imposed from outside but work best when programmes are designed to support a strong process of national decision-making. From these

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examples, it is evident that planning for United Nations support to national capacity-building also needs to adapt more systematically to national decision-making cycles.

While the civilian capacity initiative is ultimately focused on delivering stronger support in the field, the right systemic arrangements are needed to allow this to happen. In accordance with resolution 66/255, in which the General Assembly encouraged the United Nations to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian expertise, the United Nations has worked closely with Member States and civil society organizations to develop a new online platform, CAPMATCH, which provides a simple mechanism to connect those seeking experience and capacity with potential providers. It offers the prospect of real innovation in technical cooperation by prioritizing real-life experiences of institutional transformation, in particular from the global South. It also offers the potential for strengthened global partnership in which South-South cooperation complements but does not substitute North-South technical and financial support.

Country-level work and partnerships over the past year have offered useful insights that can inform our future priorities. Country engagements have demonstrated the continuing capacity gaps identified by the Senior Advisory Group in the areas of safety and security, justice, inclusive political processes, core Government functionality and economic revitalization. Initial consultations regarding the online platform have revealed the value and variety of new sources of experience and expertise in those areas, but further targeted work will be needed to access those sources, particularly the capacities from the global South that are currently insufficiently documented and disseminated. Drawing on stronger expertise will work only when accompanied by adequate and sustained financing, including innovative models of voluntary funding, which can more systematically support South-South and triangular cooperation in the aftermath of conflict or crisis.

Complementing stronger national prioritization of needs and broader networks of expertise, the internal arrangements of the United Nations need to be coherent and sufficiently nimble to respond in volatile post-crisis circumstances. Working within the current regulatory framework, we are demonstrating how this can be done. In Libya, for example, in order to better support evolving national needs, we have used a phased approach to planning and budgeting for the mission. In Timor-Leste, we have drawn on the capacities of funds and programmes to help in ensuring the implementation of mandated capacity-building activities during the current transitional period. Organizational arrangements in the rule of law sector, specifically police, justice and corrections, have been strengthened through the assumption of a joint global focal point responsibility by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with co-located staff from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

Work over the past year has also underlined the importance of responsiveness to evolving national and operational requirements and of the scope for further enhancing nimbleness within the current regulatory framework. Relevant measures include supporting mission leadership in assessing evolving civilian capacity needs and redeploying resources to change the mix of civilian capacity, when required, further developing the use of Government-provided personnel for specialized, time-limited expertise and planning carefully with agencies, funds and programmes to

take full account of the capacity-building aspects of mandates. Work is also under way to develop more effective arrangements for the deployment of Secretariat staff to respond to emergency requirements.

Since my previous report, the civilian capacity initiative has benefited from close consultations with Member States through regional meetings, thematic exchanges and discussions in the Peacebuilding Commission. From such consultations have emerged many useful ideas — for example, a more widespread understanding that the experience of countries from the global South which had successfully built institutions that prevented conflict from escalating may be of help to countries in post-crisis situations. Such close collaboration will remain crucial as we continue towards our shared goal of providing stronger, more effective support to countries emerging from conflict.

I. Introduction

1. Recent events, including tensions in South Sudan and the Sudan, violence and political upheaval in Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic and transitions in Myanmar and Yemen, suggest that the need for timely, effective civilian capacities is becoming more urgent and the capacities required more complex. Those situations and many others demonstrate that the strength and accountability of national institutions are critical to successful recovery from conflict or crisis. As the Senior Advisory Group tasked with the independent review of civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict (A/65/747-S/2011/85) observed, "the journey from war to sustainable peace is not possible in the absence of stronger civilian capacity. Without this capacity, ... resilient institutions will not take root and the risk of renewed violence will remain." Member States have similarly emphasized in the General Assembly, Peacebuilding Commission, Economic and Social Council and Security Council the central importance of national capacity-building to sustainable peace.

2. In order to respond effectively to national priorities for institution-building, the international community needs to deliver the necessary civilian capacities quickly and effectively. The United Nations itself needs to be equipped with the right civilian capacities in the field, drawing on the full range of global expertise and deploying it efficiently, as a complement to military and police personnel. To meet these challenges, I commissioned the Senior Advisory Group to analyse how to expand the pool of civilian expertise to support the immediate capacity development needs of countries emerging from conflict. In my subsequent report (A/66/311-S/2011/527), I set out how the United Nations would take up those ideas.

3. In its resolution 66/255 on civilian capacity in the aftermath of conflict, the General Assembly encouraged national Governments, the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations to broaden and deepen the pool of civilian expertise for peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict, including from countries with relevant experience in post-conflict peacebuilding or democratic transition. I welcome the close engagement of Member States in this agenda and the experience they bring to it.

4. Consultations with Member States on these issues have intensified accordingly since my previous report. Regional consultations have been held in Asia, hosted by the Governments of Indonesia and Norway, and in Africa, hosted by the Government of South Africa in collaboration with the African Union and facilitated by the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes. Further meetings are planned in Latin America and among the Arab States, the latter hosted by the Government of Morocco in collaboration with the League of Arab States. Consultations with the Peacebuilding Commission have highlighted the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation and the work of the Commission in developing national capacity and mobilizing resources for institution-building.

5. The present report sets out progress towards the priority actions identified in my previous report, overseen by a steering committee chaired by my Chef de Cabinet, Susana Malcorra. It also sets out the challenges for the next phase of the work, an important part of my broader agenda to deliver more effective support in situations of conflict and post-crisis recovery.

6. Much of the civilian capacity initiative will apply across the various responses of the United Nations system in the aftermath of conflict. Where humanitarian needs

persist in parallel with the beginning of recovery and development programming, humanitarian action will continue to be guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

II. National ownership

7. The importance of national ownership in achieving sustainable peace and development has come through clearly over the past year from countries in transition. The Group of Seven Plus successfully advocated in Busan, Republic of Korea, for a "New Deal" to support inclusive, country-owned and country-led transitions, while recognizing that transitioning out of fragility was a lengthy political process that required country leadership and ownership.[1]

8. National ownership depends on strong, inclusive and accountable national institutions. Supporting institution-building involves an inclusive process to determine priorities for the functions that build confidence between States and citizens and help to ensure sustainable peace. As highlighted in the New Deal, a single, strongly prioritized action plan is needed, one that covers the range of needs (political, security and development) and their political context and is nationally driven and backed by unified and sustained international support. Recent national peacebuilding plans show the importance that national partners attach to capacity-building in the five critical capacity gap areas; seven such plans[2] agreed in the past two years have prioritized institution-building in those areas. Actions involved go far beyond training to encompass strategic, legal and regulatory work by Governments; management and organizational reform; equipment and facilities; training and staff incentives; and accountability for performance, financial integrity and respect for human rights.

9. United Nations planning can support national capacity-building by following nationally determined priorities and fostering inclusive national dialogue that involves both Government and civil society. We need to recognize that national processes of decision-making often need time to reach a consensus on priorities. With regard to Libya, I proposed to the Security Council an initial mandate of three months to ensure that mission planning would be done in-country, fully involve the Government, and be based on a deeper understanding of needs. In non-mission contexts, country teams consult a wide range of interlocutors in order to build national ownership when developing United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. Post-conflict needs assessments, supported by the United Nations, the European Union and the World Bank, are by their nature a joint process, proceeding only when full national ownership is assured. For example, the Yemen joint socioeconomic needs assessment was conducted under the framework of post-conflict needs assessments, informing the Government's prioritization process.[3]

10. While agencies, funds and programmes are instrumental in providing support to national capacity-building needs, United Nations peacekeeping operations and

[1] New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States, endorsed at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Busan, Republic of Korea, 29 November-1 December 2011.

[2] For Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Timor-Leste.

[3] The needs assessment in Yemen was particularly useful in building the capacity of women leaders, as gender expertise and consultations with women's organizations and leaders were included throughout the process.

special political missions need to be equipped to respond to needs that fall within their mandated tasks and able to adapt to changing requirements. For example, the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) faced dramatic changes in its environment over the course of 2011. Even where national contexts are more stable, such as in Liberia, specific needs for specialized civilian expertise evolve and urgent needs may arise during the year.

11. The appropriate extent of adaptation to processes of national decision-making will vary, depending on a mission's mandated tasks, the country context and the transitional nature of post-conflict political structures, as well as progress towards peace consolidation. Where mission mandates include capacity- or institution-building goals, national involvement and adaptation to changing national priorities are crucial for success. The revision of the integrated mission planning process guidelines currently under way is addressing how to reflect this dynamic in mission planning.

12. Some sectors important for peacebuilding tend to be underresourced in national budgeting processes and associated donor assistance, for instance in building police, justice and corrections institutions. Complementary to a clear political commitment to reform, a sector-wide approach to planning and budgeting can help to maximize the availability and use of funds, coordinate assistance and ensure sustainability by providing for recurrent financing in national budgets. The question of sustainability is being addressed, for example through the joint Justice and Security Programme in Liberia, the preparation of which was led by the Government of Liberia, and which is fully aligned with the Liberia Peacebuilding Programme. A policy note is being developed by the relevant United Nations entities to give practical support to senior policymakers in national Governments in planning such approaches and mobilizing stronger financing for them. I encourage United Nations field presences to participate actively in efforts by national authorities to implement such approaches.

13. In my previous report, I acknowledged the challenges of supporting national capacity development in conflict-affected situations. I asked an inter-agency working group led by UNDP to develop principles and guidelines for better using and developing national capacity in such contexts. The team conducted an extensive field survey, which brought to light the need for a system-wide framework for delivering capacity development support. The team is producing materials to help in ensuring that such support is based on national ownership and priorities, while acknowledging United Nations mandates and norms. Given that national capacity development is both a political and a technical process, the guidance will address the need to understand, engage with and build on national dynamics; to design support that fits its context; and to prioritize South-South exchanges of experience. The guidance will also cover the need to balance short-term and long-term results and to minimize any potentially negative impact of the international community on national capacity.

14. The Senior Advisory Group stressed the importance of assessing and drawing on national capacity, as is regularly done by the agencies, funds and programmes. For example, since early 2011 the Burundi country office of the World Food Programme has drawn on existing national capacity and mentored 50 Government staff in the collection and analysis of food security and nutrition data, with a view to handing over food security assessments and early warning functions to the

Government. In Uganda, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) drew on national expertise to support the Office of the Prime Minister, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and district authorities to develop a national supply and logistics system to support crisis prevention and response.

15. As for the use of national capacity in peacekeeping operations, on average two national staff are employed for every international staff member. Although international personnel may be necessary in certain roles, over two thirds of international staff work in mission support, a costly practice and one that misses potential opportunities for building sustainable national capacity that will remain after peacekeeping operations depart. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 66/264, the feasibility of nationalizing Field Service posts will be examined in the context of a planned review of the Field Service category of staff. In practical terms, this would mean identifying those functions that could be assigned to national staff; assessing the national capacities available and their readiness to implement those functions, including the training and mentoring needed; and, as appropriate, expanding the use of national contractors. The review will examine what can be learned from the use of national capacity by agencies, funds and programmes and how mission functions can be transferred to national counterparts as missions downsize.

16. Local procurement can contribute towards national capacity-building and expand the positive impact of United Nations field presences. In this regard, measures consistent with the principles of regulation 5.12 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations continue to be taken. For example, vendor registration will be further simplified by the end of 2012 to allow for basic registration on the part of vendors participating in informal solicitation; the authority of missions to purchase core requirements suited for local procurement has been expanded in terms of the range of commodities; and the establishment of a regional procurement office in Entebbe, Uganda, as a pilot project has facilitated the identification and registration of new vendors from the region. Progress on those and other measures aimed at enhancing local procurement, including in post-conflict countries, will be further described in the comprehensive report on procurement activities to be submitted to the General Assembly at its resumed sixty-seventh session.

III. Partnerships and expertise

17. Countries emerging from conflict or crisis face the challenge of rebuilding or transforming institutions throughout Government and society. This is a long-term endeavour[4] requiring a broad range of civilian capacities, many of them highly specialized. As I emphasized in my previous report, to find these capacities we need to build partnerships with a broader range of potential providers, especially from the global South.

[4] The *World Development Report 2011* estimated that it took a generation to build adequate capacities and national institutions.

A. Networks of expertise

18. Regional consultations on civilian capacities held in 2012 in Asia and Africa, as well as those in New York on the rule of law and inclusive political processes,[5] have confirmed a particular interest among conflict- or crisis-affected countries in sharing and learning from others' comparable experiences. The consultations have provided many practical suggestions, including creating links with regional and subregional organizations, recognizing that countries can both request and provide capacities and involving countries that have carried out institutional reform in a conflict prevention context.

19. Practical examples of exchanges of experience include the work of UNDP to link policymakers in North Africa with reformers from Latin America and Eastern Europe who have gone through democratic transitions. This has involved Egypt and Tunisia exchanging experiences with Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Mexico and countries in Eastern Europe on issues of political processes after authoritarian rule, constitution-making and transitional justice. UNDP and UN-Women supported a programme to train and deploy women leaders from Senegal and neighbouring countries to act as observers at polling stations and ensure women's participation in the presidential elections in Senegal in 2012. Brazil has provided support to the Community Violence Reduction Programme in Haiti.

20. Conflict-affected States that require capacity-building support in particular areas can be capacity providers too, drawing on their experience in other fields. In Côte d'Ivoire, for example, UNDP and UNOCI are supporting the sharing of security sector reform experiences, including lessons learned, from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Discussions are under way with the Peacebuilding Fund concerning possible support for a similar exchange involving Rwanda and other States. At the same time, Côte d'Ivoire has its own expertise to offer in such areas as economic governance and electoral systems. Similarly, Timor-Leste still needs institution-building support but has valuable experience in aid coordination, public finance and natural resource management.

21. It is not only the countries' post-conflict experiences that are valuable in this regard, but also their experiences in strengthening institutions and successfully preventing conflict from arising. Botswana, for example, has cooperated with Liberia on the capacity development of the Liberian police force.

22. Countries that have reflected on other experiences when designing their own institutional reforms may subsequently share their experience with others. In Morocco, for example, national decision makers exchanged views with transitional justice experts from South Africa and countries in Latin America on the design of truth commissions, reparations and public hearings. Morocco has since shared insights from its own process with others, including most recently with Yemen. In South Africa, while the process of institutional reform was similarly home-grown, information on other experiences, such as on the constitutional framework of India and transitional justice processes in Latin America, provided helpful input; the experience of South Africa has since been widely shared.

[5] Consultations on the rule of law held on 5 June 2012 were hosted by the Permanent Mission of Morocco to the United Nations and the New York University Center on International Cooperation, and those on inclusive political processes were held on 12 June 2012, hosted by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

23. However, there is insufficient systematic support for these types of exchanges, which are mainly, though not exclusively, South-South. While consultations with Member States have shown that those States have untapped capacities and experience to share, as do regional and subregional organizations, often there is a lack of documented knowledge as to where such capacities and experience lie.

24. United Nations missions, too, face challenges in finding the specialized civilian capacities that they need to fulfil their increasingly varied mandates. Such capacities are often required on a time-limited basis to fulfil clearly defined tasks. In that case, in-house capacities may need to be supplemented by additional specialized capacities deployed on a flexible, on-demand basis from Governments and other appropriate providers.

25. In some areas, in particular those where demand is changing and the United Nations is called upon to provide capacities that are highly specialized or require in-depth experience of the management of institutional reform, the challenge lies in locating such capacities, which are scarce and in high demand. For example, in the rule of law sector, support to the police now focuses as much on institution-building as on operational policing. This requires specialized expertise in specific areas. Such skills are a limited commodity in policing, where it is often civilian policing experts who manage police information management, communications, infrastructure, procurement and financial, forensic and other related systems. It is in part for this reason that the missions in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia have faced challenges in fulfilling national requests for assistance with forensic expertise and planning, management, and accountability systems. To fill these functions, there is a need to access a broader range of expertise, including police development experts, academics and trainers, retirees with appropriate skills or civilians working with Ministries of the Interior or Finance. An additional challenge is the need for mentoring and advising skills, for which the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is developing training materials and guidelines.

26. Gender expertise is another area where the United Nations needs to be able to access the right capacities to ensure that women's needs are adequately addressed in post-conflict peacebuilding. In a recent review of how gender expertise is structured and deployed in post-conflict contexts, undertaken by UN-Women in partnership with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, UNDP, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and OHCHR, it was found that there was no system-wide approach to identifying the gender expertise needed in the aftermath of conflict. A more systematic approach is needed to deploy adequate capacities for the effective implementation of women, peace and security commitments. The review also noted that gender advisers tended to be concentrated in gender units in the field; it was recommended that gender expertise be embedded within key peacebuilding sectors instead and that senior gender advisory capacity be located in the offices of my senior field leaders. I have asked UN-Women to work with relevant entities across the system to take these findings forward.

27. As one step towards accessing this broader range of capacities and facilitating new partnerships through which they can be deployed, we are developing an online platform, CAPMATCH, whose purpose is to better match the demand and supply of specialized civilian capacities in countries emerging from conflict or crisis, focusing on the five critical capacity gaps. Participants may register as a requester or provider

of capacities or both. The platform then offers potential matches for participants to pursue.

28. The platform aims to provide a simple, transparent source of information to help providers and requesters to connect. It will be accessible to Member States, regional organizations, United Nations missions and field presences and agencies, funds and programmes, as well as other potential partners, such as NGOs and training and rostering organizations. In order to avoid the problems inherent in keeping a global roster up to date, each organization will manage its own list of available capacities; individuals will not register directly. While the platform may provide an additional source of scarce or specialized capacities needed by United Nations field presences, it is not a selection mechanism for personnel and does not affect established procedures for United Nations staffing.[6]

29. The online platform is designed to foster greater cooperation among Government and non-Government entities that have direct experience in institutional reform for post-conflict peacebuilding or conflict prevention, in particular from the global South. While our work has revealed that such capacity and experience required are largely available among Member States,[7] it is becoming clear that reflecting this fully on the platform will require considerable time and effort. This is particularly true for Member States whose experience has not yet been documented or for States in which mechanisms to share their experience with others have not yet been established.

30. The online platform is currently managed by the civilian capacities team and supported by voluntary contributions. Depending on lessons learned from its initial phase, I intend to make proposals to the General Assembly on its future management and operations.

B. Funding for national institution-building

31. Discussions with national partners and United Nations field presences have underlined the point made by the Senior Advisory Group that funding and expertise are often difficult to mobilize for national institution-building. Many countries from the global South have underlined the need for stronger financial support to strengthen national institutions, including to help to finance South-South exchanges. The Peacebuilding Commission has also made this a focus of recent discussions.

32. A number of innovative financing models to support institution-building partnerships have emerged, such as offers from countries in the global South to partially finance exchanges of expertise complemented by triangular funding from donor countries. For example, Ghana and the Netherlands have jointly supported the institutional capacity strengthening of the Liberian immigration service, with training expertise and facilities from Ghana complemented by project funding from

[6] Due diligence procedures for the platform will include verifying with Member States that Government organizations seeking to register are bona fide Government agencies and applying affiliation mechanisms of the Economic and Social Council in the case of NGO registration.

[7] Several Member States have already expressed an interest in sharing their experiences in institution-building or reform on the platform. Training and rostering organizations may also have such capacity available. For example, the African Civilian Response Capacity for Peace Support Operations has a standby roster of approximately 700 African experts, 40 per cent of whom have direct experience in post-conflict recovery and peacebuilding.

the Netherlands. UNDP has helped to develop such an arrangement in many country situations, including the partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development in South Sudan.

33. The Peacebuilding Fund already seeks to prioritize support to institution-building in national proposals. Some cases have illustrated the potential for closer partnerships with the international financial institutions and other entities to support longer-term institution-building programmes, such as the joint work between the Peacebuilding Fund and the World Bank on financing the joint Justice and Security Programme in Liberia and the Transitional Solutions Initiative in Eastern Sudan, a collective effort of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNDP, the World Bank and national partners, which aims to improve and diversify livelihood opportunities for long-staying refugees, while developing local government capacity and national ownership. The Peacebuilding Support Office is implementing a project funded by the European Union and aimed at strengthening aid information and coordination for peacebuilding. The project includes support and funding for exchanges with countries from the global South where aid information and coordination are more advanced.

34. Such voluntary funding is the only source of external financing for national institution-building in non-mission contexts. In mission contexts, such partnerships can allow a more comprehensive programme of support to national institutions and establish the basis for continued support, which will be needed as missions draw down. For example, the United Nations Environment Programme has partnered with the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone to address natural resource challenges, including supporting cooperation between the Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency and the Southern African Institute for Environmental Assessment.

35. I shall continue to work on the possibilities for expanding modes of financing national institution-building, in particular South-South and triangular exchanges, in the five critical capacity gaps. This will include liaising with the Peacebuilding Commission, other United Nations entities and external partners on how to fill gaps, improve the coherence and cost-effectiveness of assistance and maximize results.

C. Accountability

36. In my previous report I outlined a system of global focal points that would help to deliver more accountable and predictable capacities in critical capacity gap areas. Some general principles have now been developed. The principles are founded on a "two-tier" accountability system: focal points at Headquarters identify information, expertise and knowledge in their sector and ensure that adequate, timely capacities are supplied in response to country-level requests (e.g. people, knowledge and advice on assessments, planning, partnerships and financing). Some expertise may be deployed from the entity acting as the focal point, while some may be drawn from other entities and organizations within and outside the United Nations. Country-level programming and delivery remain the responsibility of United Nations entities in the field, coordinated by my special representatives or resident coordinators.

37. The rule of law sector[8] was considered the most urgent operational area to which to apply new global focal point arrangements, owing to high demand from Member States for United Nations services and a perception that the existing arrangements did not bring the necessary clarity, capacity and accountability to delivery of support in this critical area. After reviewing various options for strengthened institutional arrangements, I have decided that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP should assume joint responsibility as the global focal point for the rule of law sector (police, justice and corrections) in post-conflict and other crisis situations.

38. Under the arrangement, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP will be jointly responsible and accountable for responding to country-level requests for assistance channelled through United Nations entities on the ground. Ensuring closer collaboration between the Department, UNDP and other key partners through joint country-level assessments, planning, programming and monitoring will be a priority. The Department and UNDP will liaise with all relevant United Nations entities and their police, justice and corrections capacities in order to provide coordinated support, drawing upon their various comparative strengths, capacities and networks of expertise. Particular attention will be paid to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and OHCHR, given the importance of operational support and evaluation of progress of the criminal justice system in their mandates; to the specialized roles and mandates of such agencies as UNICEF, UN-Women and UNHCR; and to the Department of Political Affairs, in the context of missions led by that Department. I have asked the Deputy Secretary-General to review the existing institutional arrangements in the wider rule of law area, within which the appropriate relationship of the global focal point with other entities, task forces and coordination mechanisms will be determined.

39. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP are co-locating staff to support and constitute the Headquarters global focal point arrangement. This co-location will help to create a sense of partnership and collaboration and facilitate more effective country-level support, including joint programming. For that reason it should be mirrored, wherever possible, by co-located arrangements in the field. OHCHR and UN-Women have also decided to co-locate staff, while UNODC has expressed interest in collaborating on country programming and data analysis.

40. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP are developing a joint workplan and a joint funding approach aimed at improving the coherence and transparency of funding and enabling the global focal point to support this sector of growing demand. I urge Member States to support this approach so that the synergies to be gained from these new Headquarters arrangements are underpinned by a coordinated strategic approach at the country level and adequate funding for activities and programmes.

41. As work to establish the global focal point progresses, I intend to keep Member States informed of any further developments regarding the operationalization of the arrangements, including through the appropriate governing

[8] For the purpose of the present report, the rule of law sector comprises the relatively narrow area of police, justice and corrections. Justice includes the judiciary and non-formal dispute resolution systems, such as community-based mechanisms to resolve family, land and property disputes. Inputs to constitutional processes are considered under the critical gap area of inclusive political processes.

bodies. I also intend to learn and apply lessons from the establishment of the global focal point to other critical capacity gap areas.

42. Senior leaders will be responsible and accountable for ensuring that global focal points respond to country-level requests for assistance. I expect them to commit to a transparent, country-driven measurement of this service and to clearly express this accountability in their management compacts. In the same vein, in my previous report I committed to holding senior leaders in the field accountable with regard to the shared goals of the United Nations system at the country level. The guidelines for management compacts of heads of missions do indeed provide for accountability with regard to shared objectives. Where applicable, the integrated strategic frameworks, which include jointly agreed goals, provide an objective measure of performance in this area and should be used accordingly.

43. Similarly, mutual accountability among the leaders of United Nations field presences is crucial, and contributions to the accomplishment of shared goals should be part of each agency's system for evaluating the performance of senior leaders in the field. The implementation of the management and accountability system should be reviewed regularly in the United Nations Development Group, so that this important tool is not allowed to lag; I have requested the executive heads of the agencies, funds and programmes to accelerate implementation.

44. The Senior Advisory Group touched upon issues of gender balance in United Nations staffing in its report and called for greater accountability of senior field leaders with regard to gender equality. New data from 10 United Nations entities[9] show that in conflict-affected contexts we are well behind our global target of women holding 30 per cent of decision-making positions. In seven of those entities, women made up less than 25 per cent of senior management grades. Across United Nations missions, women hold only 2 of 17 Under-Secretary-General-level positions and 1 of 44 positions at the D-2 level. I remain committed to improving these results and have instructed the Department of Field Support to review this situation in consultation with UN-Women and to report to me in 2013 with specific recommendations to accomplish this. As requested in my previous report, UN-Women is working with the Department of Management to strengthen the accountability of United Nations senior leaders with regard to gender equality in the aftermath of conflict.

IV. Financial and managerial agility

45. In my previous report I emphasized the importance of timely support for capacity-building in post-conflict countries in order to avoid the risk of relapse into conflict and the consequent need for the ability to respond to evolving requirements. I continue to believe that many necessary improvements can be made within the current regulatory framework.

[9] The Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

A. Planning and budgeting

46. The adaptability of United Nations missions is important because operational circumstances evolve in volatile post-conflict settings, creating the need to adjust budgets that have been prepared almost a year before the start of the budget year. As outlined in paragraph 62 of my previous report, current arrangements do indeed provide some scope for reallocation, when necessary, after a budget has been approved. To ensure that senior managers are fully cognizant of this, both the responsibility to identify changes required for more effective mandate implementation and the parameters within which adjustments can be made have been articulated to my special representatives. This information will be integrated in training programmes for heads of mission and their senior leadership teams.

47. Another factor is the need for missions to engage with and support nationally owned processes, which do not necessarily unfold in line with United Nations budgetary timelines. Whether owing to the evolution of the mission's internal assessment of how best to accomplish the mandate or to changes in national requirements, however, missions need to be able to adapt to changing needs and opportunities, including in the mix of civilian capacity.

48. The General Assembly recognizes that not all capacity needs can be fully identified long in advance, as illustrated in its approval of the provision for consultancies in the budget for the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). The budget provides funding for an estimated volume of services, enabling the responsive provision of specialized expertise in a range of thematic areas, as agreed with the Government of Libya. Because the provision is a financial one, managers can adapt the mix of expertise within the approved level of resources.

49. The ability of missions to adapt with respect to the principal form of civilian capacity in missions — posts — is more complex. From a budgetary point of view, civilian personnel are managed as both a financial amount and as the sum of all posts, each approved for a specific purpose. Within those arrangements, there is a need to ensure that adjustments can be made to the composition of capacity within the approved financial levels, especially during the early life of a mission, when requirements are fluid.

50. To bring about the necessary responsiveness to changing civilian capacity needs, the Senior Advisory Group recommended that heads of mission be authorized to reallocate 20 per cent of the provision for civilian personnel. Rather than propose any specific threshold for adjustment, I believe the key issue is to facilitate change in the mix of capacity, when needed, to support mandated tasks in dynamic field settings. Specifically, I will stress to heads of missions their responsibility to monitor the evolution of civilian capacity requirements and to make necessary adjustments in the mix and type of capacity, while applying established procedures concerning redeployment of resources within and between expenditure categories. Any changes made would be reported in the performance report and, if those changes need to be continued, would be presented to the General Assembly in the context of the subsequent budget proposal. Furthermore, future budgets would include Government-provided personnel in the civilian personnel expenditure category, rather than in the operational costs category. This would provide a more transparent presentation of civilian capacity resources and facilitate adjustments among sub-items.

51. Where the definition of staffing requirements is still evolving, proposals for general temporary assistance could be more appropriate than establishing posts as a measure to balance the need of the General Assembly to consider the organizational structure and personnel requirements of a peacekeeping operation with the need to accommodate changes during budget implementation. This can facilitate the management of capacity needs within the approved financial levels.

52. I undertook in my previous report to refine the standard funding model for the first year of a new peacekeeping operation, in order to provide explicitly for changes in the mix of civilian capacity. As the General Assembly decided in its resolution 66/264 that any further development of a standard funding model should take into account the evaluation of its first application in the initial budget of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, no recommendation is made at this time. However, I believe that the principles that underpin the standard funding model better provide for the adaptability needed to change the mix of capacity in the early life of a mission. I intend to analyse this issue further and address it in the assessment of the experience with the standard funding model that will be presented to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, in the context of the progress report on the implementation of the global field support strategy.

53. With regard to mandates that emphasize support to national processes and related capacity-building, I will work to ensure that missions work closely with the various United Nations system entities to foster an integrated approach to carrying out these aspects of the mandate. Furthermore, it is necessary to recognize in the formulation of mission budgets that support for national processes and capacity-building may require a broader mix of inputs than do some other substantive areas of the mission, for which the budgetary provision is often limited to personnel.

B. Access to capacities

54. Paragraphs 17 to 26 above set out the circumstances in which a range of civilian capacities is required in post-conflict situations and the importance of specialized or contextually relevant expertise, such as other countries' experience of transition and reform. United Nations field missions require modalities that enable access to the necessary expertise. The further measures I envisage build on the policies and modalities already in place.

55. Staff deployment is clearly the central means of equipping missions with civilian expertise. However, there is often a need for timely specialized expertise that may be unique to a country or region, niche functions for which there is no continuing Secretariat requirement or capacities that are not readily available within the United Nations, particularly where needs are urgent and/or time-sensitive. An example is the deployment of corrections experts from Jordan as Government-provided personnel to Libya for short-term assignments to support institutional reform in the Libyan corrections service, in line with the UNSMIL approach of drawing on external capacity for specific, time-limited assistance.

56. One important avenue for widening the pool of specialized expertise is to draw more effectively on the relevant experiences of Member States in institution-building and reform. I therefore envisage making further use of Government-provided personnel as experts on mission for time-limited, specialized functions that are not required on an ongoing basis in the Secretariat or are not readily available,

without any expectation of longer-term United Nations engagement. This modality is based on the arrangements to obtain police officers, under which the providing Governments pay the salary while the United Nations pays the mission subsistence allowance and travel costs, and is also applied to corrections and judicial expertise. It could also be used for other specialized civilian expertise, which would be solicited by means of notes verbales.

57. In order to address the need expressed by the General Assembly[10] for greater clarity in resource proposals and the criteria for determining whether Government-provided personnel with the status of expert on mission should be recruited, I will develop guidelines to govern the recruitment of such personnel to ensure a clear and consistent approach within the Secretariat and report thereon to the Assembly.

58. In cases where the requirement is for competencies best accessed from Member States in the form of integrated teams rather than individuals, I would also solicit interest by means of a note verbale with a view to entering into arrangements with the Member States concerned on the basis of the same financial arrangements that apply to individual Government-provided personnel. I intend to assess the possibility of entering into arrangements to access specialized expertise from international organizations, such as the African Union, and to report thereon to the General Assembly.

59. Consultants are another well known vehicle for specialized expertise. Work is now under way to launch a central database of consultants, to be rolled out at various duty stations in 2013. It will offer a platform for transparent and accessible contracting of individual consultants on a global basis and can support the pre-screening of experts in thematic areas required by missions, so as to facilitate the rapid mobilization of expertise. This should enable greater access to expertise and experience from the global South.

60. A further measure that would deepen partnerships and facilitate access to needed specialized expertise is to make standing arrangements with roster managers to mobilize expertise for specialized roles that the United Nations does not intend to recruit directly, or for specialized, short-term, urgent needs. Such entities as the African Civilian Response Capacity for Peace Support Operations and the Norwegian Refugee Council maintain rosters of specialized expertise that can be deployed at short notice, and some capacity providers populate their rosters with experts from both the North and the South. While such structured arrangements have been developed to support humanitarian responses, they are not applied in the case of field missions. Taking into account the need for access to the relevant experience and expertise from the global South, I intend to develop procedures to enable such standing arrangements and to report on progress to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

61. The issue of comparative advantage relates to directing resources to the actor best equipped to carry out a mandated task. This needs to take account of both institutional roles and specific contexts. As a step in this direction, and in the belief that the identification of the entity best equipped to undertake a task should start during initial mission planning, the revision of the integrated mission planning

[10] In its resolution 66/264, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, including those on the subject (see A/66/718, para. 58).

process guidelines will be aimed at further assisting mission planners to define respective roles and responsibilities and the resources required to carry them out. Meanwhile, as the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste begins to draw down, a small set of mandated capacity-building work is being carried out on its behalf by UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN-Women. This should offer lessons for the future.

62. With respect to facilitating the flow of financial resources, I am pleased to report that the Secretariat has signed an agreement that allows the Peacebuilding Fund to support applicable activities carried out by the Secretariat. Furthermore, steps are being taken in the Secretariat to rationalize and implement a readily understandable and transparent schedule of programme support cost rates based on clearly defined criteria. In accordance with this schedule, voluntary contributions to trust funds managed by integrated missions would be charged the support cost rate applicable to contributions in support of inter-agency and "Delivering as one" programmes and of collaboration with other multilateral institutions where valid inter-agency arrangements apply. The current rate is 7 per cent.

C. Corporate emergency model

63. The Senior Advisory Group recommended the development of a model to enable more rapid and reliable deployment of Secretariat staff to respond to "corporate emergencies". In my previous report, I undertook to pursue the recommendation to establish a roster of trained, rapidly deployable Secretariat staff as a measure to strengthen our ability to respond to emergencies.

64. United Nations humanitarian entities have developed arrangements for triggering an emergency response, mobilizing resources and deploying personnel in crisis situations. In other circumstances, the analysis conducted in past months has found that the Secretariat is often challenged to deploy staff quickly enough in a crisis. Where the capacity exists, it is often not identified quickly enough, and when it is identified managers are often reluctant or slow to release their staff. One reason is that the deployments are not planned or anticipated. Another is linked to the challenges of backfilling the resulting vacancy.[11] Even when capacity is deployed, at times it cannot be retained in situ for an adequate duration.

65. To address these shortcomings, it is envisaged that an emergency staff deployment facility will be established, consisting of a pool of pre-cleared and pre-trained candidates for rapid deployment. The pool would be populated through a general call for Secretariat or mission-eligible staff who are cleared by a central review body and committed in advance to deploying within 72 hours of a request for a defined period. A robust roster mechanism would help to address the challenges of quickly identifying and releasing staff on an ad hoc basis. Furthermore, to address the continuity and retention of in situ staff capacity, short-term emergency deployments could be complemented by a greater use of temporary assignments (for periods beyond three months), where relevant.

66. The emergency staff deployment facility has been conceptualized based on best practices within the United Nations system and other international emergency

[11] The primary challenge is backfilling vacancies created by staff on travel status where the post costs are not covered by the receiving offices.

response organizations that maintain such rosters. Taking into account the arrangements that have been developed by United Nations humanitarian entities, I will submit a proposal for the establishment and functioning of the facility and the related resource requirements.

V. Conclusions

67. We have made useful progress since my previous report towards strengthening civilian support for sustainable peace and development. Our consultations with Member States and our work with United Nations presences in the field have confirmed the central importance of effective and legitimate institutions in preventing relapse into conflict. As the Senior Advisory Group pointed out, "unless conflict-affected communities can develop their own abilities to cope with crisis and change, international assistance will not succeed" (A/65/747-S/2011/85). Providing the necessary support requires the United Nations in the field to be equipped with appropriate, timely, specialized civilian capacities that are sourced through a broader range of partnerships. It is a collective effort that requires the political commitment of national partners and capacities, expertise and funding from Member States.

68. Some of the practical steps that we have taken include:

(a) Launching the initial phase of the online platform to better match the supply and demand of capacities. In addition to providing immediate information about potential capacities and a starting point for new partnerships, the platform should foster networks across which expertise and experience can be shared, promoting greater South-South cooperation. I encourage Member States to participate in the platform;

(b) Creating a global focal point for the rule of law sector (specifically police, justice and corrections). Bringing greater coherence to the system's capacities, networks and expertise will help to improve our delivery in the field and create the necessary clarity and accountability in this critical area. I encourage Member States to support these new arrangements accordingly;

(c) Making use of the scope of the current regulatory framework to allow the United Nations to respond more nimbly to evolving national and operational requirements, as outlined in paragraphs 46 to 53 above. This includes the ability to change the mix of civilian capacity as circumstances require, examining alternatives to the premature formulation of detailed, mission-specific staffing tables, empowering senior leaders to manage resources in a way that maximizes responsiveness to national needs and planning carefully with agencies, funds and programmes to take full account of the capacity-building aspects of mandates;

(d) Making use of Government-provided personnel with the status of expert on mission for time-limited capacity requiring specialized skills without any expectation of longer-term engagement, as outlined in paragraphs 56 to 58 above;

(e) Progress towards other goals identified in my previous report, including guidelines for supporting capacity-building, stronger direction with regard to new planning processes to support national ownership, a review of how gender expertise is deployed and the development of a corporate emergency model.

69. The priorities for the future include ensuring that the online platform matching capacity supply and demand includes the widest possible range of relevant experience and capacities and refining the platform on the basis of initial feedback; learning from the new global focal point arrangements how clarity and accountability might be improved in other key areas; exploring innovative models for voluntary funding that can more systematically support South-South and triangular cooperation for institution-building in the aftermath of conflict or crisis; and increasing the interoperability of staff and systems to allow the use of resources and capacities from across the United Nations system and maximize efficiencies in the field. I will also continue to re-examine administrative arrangements, operating procedures and working methods to ensure that they support the responsiveness required of the United Nations in post-conflict situations.

70. I greatly appreciate the strong interest and collaboration that Member States have shown in the civilian capacity initiative. This work is not an end in itself. When people struggle to replace the battlefield with strong, inclusive and accountable institutions as the place to resolve differences, they deserve our support. Together we should empower rather than supplant their endeavours. I look forward to continuing our joint efforts to do so.

VI. Action to be taken by the General Assembly

71. The General Assembly may wish to take note of the present report.

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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report was prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 65/155, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-seventh session on the status of the implementation of that resolution, and to include a section in his report on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations. A report of the Association of Caribbean States on progress made in implementation of this resolution is contained in the annex to the present report.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/155 of 19 December 2010, entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations", the General Assembly called on the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection and sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea, and requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-seventh session on the status of the implementation of that resolution, and to include a section in his report on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.

2. The present report is based on inputs from the United Nations system, relevant regional organizations, and Member States.[1] Pursuant to the invitation extended by the General Assembly, the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) has submitted a report on its progress in implementing the above-mentioned resolution, which is contained in the annex to this report.

II. Activities undertaken at the national and regional levels

A. Marine pollution

3. Following the establishment of adequate port waste reception facilities by most countries in the region, the Special Area designation for the Caribbean, under Annex V to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, entered into force in May 2011, prohibiting disposal of all garbage into the sea.

4. The Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region entered into force in August 2010, following the accession of Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas and Guyana. It has since also been ratified by Dominica and Grenada, and is expected to be ratified by Jamaica.

5. As a Co-Chair of the White Water to Blue Water Partnership Initiative, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) continues to develop partnerships that enhance integrated approaches in areas such as waste water and sanitation, sustainable agricultural

[1] Inputs were received from the following organizations: the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Tourism Organization and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States; and from the following Member States: Australia, Colombia, Costa Rica and Mexico.

practices, integrated coastal management, sustainable tourism and environmentally sound marine transport in the wider Caribbean region.

6. The improvement of waste-water management capacity in countries of the wider Caribbean region has been supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) project, of which UNEP CEP is the regional implementing agency. The final project, approved in 2010, will benefit 13 participating countries through sustainable financing for projects and by addressing key capacity constraints within existing legal, institutional, educational and policy frameworks.

7. Efforts to mitigate pollution caused by ballast water exchange continue to be supported by UNEP CEP, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre for the Wider Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC). Following the development of a draft regional strategy for ballast water management, a Regional Training Workshop on the Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement of the Ballast Water Management Convention was held in Jamaica on 14 and 15 November 2011.

8. Oil pollution response efforts have included the creation of a Regional Caribbean Island Oil Pollution Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Plan, led by RAC-REMPEITC Caribe, the development of a geographic information system (GIS)-based database of the Maritime Traffic in the Wider Caribbean Region, and the development of environmental sensitivity index (ESI) maps, which will facilitate the risk assessment and planning process during an oil spill response. Additionally, the Government of Mexico convened a meeting in November 2011 with the aim of strengthening regional cooperation and exchanging information on the management of industrial security and environmental protection in the oil industry operating in the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.

9. With the primary goal of assisting in the environmental protection and sustainable development of the wider Caribbean region, as related to the prevention and reduction of marine litter, UNEP Regional Seas and partners developed a Regional Action Plan on the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter, which was piloted in three countries (Barbados, Guyana and Saint Lucia).

10. Two GEF projects addressing watershed management came to a close in the last biennium. The project entitled "Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Developing States of the Caribbean" has supported legislative and policy reform at the island States level and capacity-building to implement those reforms. Demonstration projects completed in eight small island developing States showed how the reduction of contaminants can address water scarcity and also improve the quality of the marine environment and coastal resources. A follow-up project to GEF IWCAM, entitled "Implementing Integrated Land, Water and Wastewater Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States" was endorsed and submitted for consideration by the GEF Secretariat in April 2012.

11. It is proposed that the project entitled "Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea" (REPCar), implemented in Costa Rica, Colombia and Nicaragua to protect the Caribbean marine environment by reducing pesticide run-off in the agricultural sector, be succeeded by the project entitled "Improved management of agrochemical life cycles in the Caribbean and Central American regions", which

aims to be more multisectoral in nature and to include international waters and persistent organic pollutants.

B. Coastal and marine resource management

12. Recognizing the role that marine protected areas play in conserving biodiversity, enhancing fisheries and achieving other management goals, UNEP CEP continued to take the lead in the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management (CaMPAM) Network and Forum partnership to strengthen capacity for marine protected area management in the wider Caribbean. The Caribbean Environment Programme has also supported the Caribbean Challenge Initiative through regional activities that include marine protected area networking and capacity-building. In support of improved governance of the shared living marine resources of the wider Caribbean, CEP is currently implementing a pilot project on the management and conservation of reef biodiversity and reef fisheries using an ecosystem-based approach, as part of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project.

13. The threat of alien and invasive species (such as the lionfish) to biodiversity in the region is being addressed through the regional GEF project on Invasive Species in the Insular Caribbean implemented by the Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International (CABI).

14. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been fostering the implementation of ecosystem approaches to fisheries, including through the development of a toolbox thereon in collaboration with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) and the University of the West Indies. A case study of the shared stocks of the shrimp and groundfish fishery of the Guianas-Brazil shelf was undertaken as part of the GEF-CLME Project, with the aim of mainstreaming ecosystem approaches to fisheries into the management of the shrimp and groundfish resources of this area.

15. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) adopted a resolution on strengthening the implementation of international fisheries instruments at its fourteenth session, held in Panama City from 6 to 9 February 2012. The Commission also established a Working Group on Recreational Fisheries, which aims to assess their socioeconomic impact and importance.

16. The work of the CEP SPAW subprogramme includes conservation activities for wider Caribbean region-threatened and -endangered species, as listed in the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol). National sea turtle recovery action plans were completed for Panama and Grenada, a regional management plan for the conservation of marine mammals in the wider Caribbean region was adopted, and the regional manatee management plan was updated. Regional efforts towards sustainable management of queen conch and spiny lobster were supported, in particular in the area of capacity-building in collaboration with FAO/Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission.

17. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has provided technical and financial support to the Caribbean countries for the integrated water management of river basin and coastal resources, as well as for the ecosystem-based management of transboundary living marine resources in the Caribbean large marine ecosystem. Through a four-year project in Antigua and Barbuda, UNDP aims to

develop a sustainable island resource management (SIRM) approach, one that perceives the whole island ecosystem and its marine and terrestrial resources as a capital asset that, with proper management and protection, will continue to yield a flow of vital goods and services necessary for sustainable economic development.

18. The project entitled "Sustainable Management of the shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions" (2009-2013) is contributing to improving the governance and management of shared living marine resources in the wider Caribbean region through an ecosystem-based approach. Three priority transboundary problems have been identified: unsustainable exploitation of fish and other living resources, habitat degradation and community modification, and pollution. A strategic action programme (SAP) is being developed and will aim at mobilizing resources for the strengthening of the overarching governance framework for the Caribbean large marine ecosystem and adjacent areas.

19. At the national level, Colombia launched a project on biodiversity protection in the south-west region of the Caribbean in 2010, aimed at protecting, preserving and sustainably using important ecosystems and marine and coastal biodiversity of the south-western Caribbean Sea. Costa Rica developed a national strategy for the integrated management of marine and coastal resources, which identifies three critical issues requiring immediate action: management of marine and coastal resources, maritime safety and spatial planning.

20. In response to requests from Caribbean countries, Australia hosted a workshop to help better manage coral reefs and respond to climate change impacts such as coral reef bleaching and loss of biodiversity. Building on this, Australia's partnership with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is supporting further coral reef management activities designed to promote sustainable marine environments.

C. Sustainable economic and social development

21. The International Labour Organization (ILO) Maritime Labour Convention, 2006, which sets out comprehensive rights and protection for seafarers while also providing a level playing field for shipowners, has, to date, been ratified by Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

22. The ILO Programme on Occupational Safety and Health and the Environment in the Caribbean (OSHE) was launched in February 2011, with the aim of supporting Governments and employers' and workers' organizations in the Caribbean in their efforts to improve occupational safety and health and contribute to environmental sustainability, including in such crucial economic sectors as the hotel, tourism and cruise ships industries.

23. ILO promotes creation of green jobs as a strategy for minimizing the environmental impact of enterprises and economic sectors. The creation of green jobs and decent work is one of four priorities in the decent work country programme for Guyana, which was signed off on in April 2012. Guyana has also been implementing a low-carbon development strategy, launched in 2009, with the aim of fostering economic growth, and sustaining development through the adoption of a low-carbon development path.

24. The World Tourism Organization sustainable tourism for eliminating poverty (ST-EP) initiative focuses on developing and promoting sustainable forms of tourism with activities specifically aimed at alleviating poverty, including focusing on training of local guides and hotel employees, facilitating the involvement of local people in tourism development around natural and cultural heritage sites, establishing business linkages between poor producers and tourism enterprises, and providing business and financial services to small, medium-sized and community-based tourism enterprises. In Honduras, a project was carried out to establish linkages between the Garifuna communities and small businesses near la Bahía de Tela.

25. The World Tourism Organization is participating in the Cultural Recovery and Creative Productive Development on the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, a joint programme that aims to help reduce inequality in the human, social and economic development of indigenous and Afro-descendant villages on the Caribbean coast through cultural reclamation, productive development and the furthering of traditional knowledge.

D. Climate change and disaster preparedness

26. The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) continues to serve as the focal point for climate change issues in the Caribbean, providing clearing-house and capacity-building services, implementing projects and supporting joint programmes in the region. CCCCC, together with the University of the West Indies and the Cuban Institute of Meteorology (INSMET), has completed work on climate modelling, especially in projecting temperature and precipitation changes, and is now working on projecting changes in sea level. CCCCC has also prepared an Implementation Plan for the Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change, as mandated by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government. The plan defines the region's strategic approach for coping with climate change for the period 2011-2021.

27. UNEP implemented a pilot Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology Development Project (RiVAMP), which was conceived with the objective of developing an assessment tool that takes into account ecosystems and climate change in the analysis of disaster risk and vulnerability. It specifically targets small island developing States and other coastal areas that are highly vulnerable and exposed to tropical cyclones and related hazards.

28. The project, entitled "Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in Jamaica", funded by the European Union (EU) and co-managed by UNEP CEP and the Planning Institute of Jamaica, seeks to increase resilience and reduce risks associated with natural hazards in vulnerable areas as constituting adaptive measures to climate change, thereby contributing to the sustainable development of Jamaica.

29. With the project "My Island — My Community: Increasing Awareness and Changing Attitudes and Behaviours on Climate Change and Environment in Tobago", UNDP aims to increase environmental awareness on climate change in Tobago, focusing on community participation and a bottom-up approach to conservation, improved watershed management and more controlled use of resources.

30. In Guyana, UNDP interventions at the policy level have resulted in the setting up of a national multi-stakeholder Disaster Risk Reduction Coordination Platform; the preparation of a disaster risk management policy and a multi-hazard response plan; and the establishment of a fully equipped Emergency Operation Centre. Vulnerability studies were conducted in health, human settlements and agriculture, including scenarios of future impacts of climate change.

31. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) continues to support its Caribbean member States, in coordination with regional organizations like the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), towards the establishment of a full-fledged Caribbean tsunami and sea-level-related hazards warning and mitigation system. The Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions has met annually since 2006. Significant improvement has been achieved in terms of sea-level monitoring coverage with support of the University of Hawaii Sea Level Center, the Puerto Rico Seismic Network and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

32. The World Tourism Organization has conducted a series of national and regional workshops to assist its member States in assessing and mitigating risks related to tourism, which include developing, planning and implementing crisis management systems that will reduce the impact of, and assist in recovery from, crises. The World Tourism Organization is also a key partner in the CARIBSAVE project, which addresses the impacts and challenges surrounding climate change, tourism, the environment, economic development and community livelihoods across the Caribbean Basin.

33. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) conducted economic assessments to 2050 of the impact of climate change on key vulnerable sectors of several Caribbean countries, including an analysis of the coastal and marine sector in the British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the coastal and human settlements sector in Barbados and Guyana. These assessments provided quantitative information on the costs of climate change to these economies and of the various adaptation and mitigation options recommended.

34. Colombia has undertaken a national pilot project for adaptation to climate change, the marine component of which addresses adaptation measures in the insular areas, specifically to changes in precipitation, temperature and sea-level rise.

35. Australia established formal relations with CARICOM in 2009 and is investing $A 60 million in development assistance to help Caribbean countries reduce vulnerability to climate change, natural disasters and economic challenges. Of the $A 17.5 million committed to climate change and disaster risk reduction programmes, most of the support goes to key regional organizations, which are helping nations and communities across the Caribbean to reduce the impacts of climate change and natural disasters.

E. Capacity-building and access to information

36. IMO has developed a geographic information system (GIS)-based database on maritime traffic in the wider Caribbean with the aim of increasing access to information; improving maritime environment protection; analysing maritime traffic; enhancing government-industry partnership and cooperation; and increasing implementation of IMO and relevant regional instruments. IMO also held a series of national and regional workshops in 2011 on: the development of an environmental sensitivity index and associated GIS maps; compliance, monitoring and enforcement of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments; and the implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation.

37. UNEP CEP continues to work in the wider Caribbean region to assist countries in respect of their becoming parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and the three protocols thereto, meeting the objectives set out therein, and facilitating their implementation through awareness-raising, capacity-building, data collection and ease of access to information. CEP is also the regional executing agency for the GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resource Network project, which aims to enhance communications and information-sharing among GEF projects.

38. Progress has been made on an assessment of pollutant loads and sources in the wider Caribbean region facilitated by the LBS RAC Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays (CIMAB), providing additional data and information regarding discharges into, or impacting, the wider Caribbean region and establishing a baseline from which to measure progress under the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) to the Cartagena Convention.

39. In order to enhance the capacity of the countries of the wider Caribbean region to implement the LBS Protocol and to improve knowledge on the status and quality of the marine environment and its resources, a partnership known as the Regional Network in Marine Science and Technology for the Caribbean: The Know-Why Network was developed. The partnership project enabled capacity-building of regional activity centres for the LBS Protocol and partner regional laboratories through the provision of materials and training, development of pollutant indicators and methodologies for monitoring and analysis, and capacity-building to facilitate the increased use of GIS.

40. Ongoing discussions have focused on effective regional coordination of information between partners of the Know-Why Network and GEF-sponsored initiatives (the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management and Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea projects). Existing and proposed information systems for developing a pollution information node and a database on the state of the marine environment of the wider Caribbean region are under evaluation. One platform for data dissemination already established is a web-based interactive project activity map (IPAM) created in collaboration with the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC). A similar map is planned for regional shi, ,ing data obtained by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre for the Wider Caribbean.

41. The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre project entitled "Database management system for regional integrated observing network for environmental change in the wider Caribbean (DBS)", launched in 2011, aims to build regional capacity to respond to the challenges and adverse impact of climate change by facilitating open access to data products useful for observing environmental change in the wider Caribbean through support of a regional observing network.

42. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Secretariat has instituted a Sustainable Oceans Governance (SOG) programme with the overall objective of promoting regional economic development through the sustainable management of the use of ocean resources and the protection of the marine environment. The OECS SOG programme aims to build capacity at the level of the Secretariat and member States to develop clear overarching national policies on ocean governance and strengthen the legal and administrative frameworks in support of such policies.

43. UNDP has focused on strengthening the implementation of environmental impact assessments, as well as contributing to the implementation of strategic environmental assessments, through the development and application of natural resource valuation tools, including through a pilot project in Jamaica.

44. UNESCO continues to support the consolidation and expansion of the Sandwatch educational programme in the Caribbean, involving students, teachers and community members. A global Sandwatch database is currently under development, allowing practitioners to share data from their projects online.

III. Activities of the Caribbean Sea Commission

45. Since its establishment in 2006, with the purpose of promoting a coordinated governance of the wider Caribbean region and spearheading the initiative to designate the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, the Caribbean Sea Commission has been seeking full institutionalization in order to implement its proposed plan of action. During the past two years, efforts have continued to focus on raising awareness of the potential role of the Caribbean Sea Commission in regional ocean governance aimed at engaging countries of the wider Caribbean region and garnering financial support from donors outside the region. While some support has been shown, both political and financial, it has not yet been enough for the Commission to establish its Secretariat and to begin its substantive work. During the next biennium, efforts will continue to focus on promoting the Commission and securing funding for its operationalization.

46. As elaborated in the report of the Association of Caribbean States (see annex), the Commission counts as one of its key roles the formation of a collaborative technical and policy network of all countries and organizations working towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea with the objective of sharing experiences and coordinating initiatives via a functional region-wide science-policy interface. Steps were taken towards the establishment of such an interface in 2011 with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Association of Caribbean States and the University of the West Indies, followed by the establishment of the University's Ocean Governance Network to facilitate the memorandum of understanding. This interdisciplinary Network is fully operational,

providing an interface between the Caribbean Sea Commission and the expertise available across the University.

IV. Possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development

47. The concept of the Caribbean Sea às a "special area in the context of sustainable development" and the definition of the legal implications thereof are expected to be taken up by the Legal Subcommission of the Caribbean Sea Commission once the Secretariat is established, taking into consideration the specific meaning ascribed to "special areas" in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.[2]

48. As detailed in the annexed Association of Caribbean States report, the financial implications for the operationalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission must be viewed as having two components: (a) operationalization of the Secretariat and (b) strengthening the capacity of Association of Caribbean States member States and regional organizations to implement coastal and ocean governance decisions. However, since the role of the Commission lies in coordination and integration, rather than in implementation, the costs associated with the second component are not directly related to the funding requirements of the Commission.

49. In considering the financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area, it is important to account for the value of coastal and ocean resources of the wider Caribbean region in terms both of their use value and of their non-use value. Currently, most valuation work has been directed at coral reefs, in relation to the benefits of marine protected areas, but little effort has been expended on the issue of the value of coral reefs as coastal defence or the valuation of other ecosystems (continental shelf, pelagic).

V. Conclusion

50. **The protection of the Caribbean Sea and the sustainable management of its resources continue to be a priority for the countries of the wider Caribbean region and for the greater international community. The last biennium has seen significant positive developments, particularly with regard to the entry into force of international agreements on ship-generated waste and pollution from land-based sources and activities. Regional organizations have continued to work together, aided by a number of new information management and information technology initiatives that facilitate knowledge-sharing.**

51. **The Association of Caribbean States continues to promote the Caribbean Sea Commission as a coordinating body for ocean governance in the wider**

[2] See General Assembly resolution 65/37 on oceans and the law of the sea. The previous report (A/65/301) covers in greater detail the potential legal implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area vis-à-vis the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships.

Caribbean region and to seek its operationalization. The international community has recognized the importance of a coordinated approach to the sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea and has demonstrated its support for the proposed work of the Commission. In order to pursue its programme of work, the Commission needs the financial support of the international community to allow for the establishment of a Secretariat. Once the Caribbean Sea Commission ac ,uirs the necessary funding to begin its substantive activities, the initiative to designate the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development can be further explored, and the associated legal and financial implications can be detailed.

Annex

Report of the Association of Caribbean States on the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/155, entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations"

Introduction

1. The wider Caribbean is the most geopolitically complex and diverse region in the world. In light of this and the large numbers of countries and organizations that are involved in sustainable development at multiple geographical and institutional-scale levels, it is not possible to assemble complete information on all that is being done within the region to ensure the sustainable management and development of the Caribbean Sea. The current governance structure features the maintenance of extensive inventories of projects and information. A network structure that promotes interaction among countries and partner organizations and facilitates access to their information and expertise is seen as a more effective and efficient means of collaboration than an approach that attempts to maintain extensive inventories of projects, expertise and information. The Caribbean Sea Commission provides this solution.

2. One of the key roles of the Caribbean Sea Commission is to establish and maintain a technical and policy-oriented network of all Association of Caribbean States (ACS) countries and organizations mandated to conduct work in any way related to the Caribbean Sea. The network would address the critical issues facing the region's marine systems. In this way, the Commission can serve as a body for coordination and exchange of experiences among States regarding their policies in the Caribbean, and to strengthen existing mechanisms by promoting synergies and inter-institutional cooperation while respecting each organization's mandate.

3. The partnership or networking approach described above that has been adopted as the mode of operation of the Caribbean Sea Commission will require support at the country level as well as from the full range of regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations that make up the network. Ultimately, the Commission is not intended to be a body for implementation of technical projects. Local, national and regional partners are currently well placed to fulfil this role. Rather, the Commission is seen as a mechanism with which to build and enhance a network among partners, with a view to establishing a functional region-wide science-policy interface.

4. In April 2011, the Association of Caribbean States and the University of the West Indies accomplished this. The two institutions signed a memorandum of understanding in support of the operationalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission. This was followed in October 2011 by the establishment by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies (UWI) of the University's Ocean Governance Network to facilitate the memorandum of understanding. The Network provides an interface between the expertise available on all four campuses of the University and the Commission. The network has many members from a wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and is fully operational.

5. The present report covers the activities of the Association of Caribbean States and its Caribbean Sea Commission in respect of actions highlighted in General Assembly resolution 65/155 entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations", adopted on 20 December 2010, as well as the issues set out in paragraphs 6 and 17 thereof.

6. The report specifically provides updates on the issues covered in paragraphs 3, 4, 8-11, 14, 16 and 17 of resolution 65/155. Activities dealt with are:

- Institutionalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission
- International support for the Commission
- Progress with international agreements
- Fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation
- Disaster preparedness
- Human capacity
- Legal implications

Institutionalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission and its Subcommission

7. In the past two years, there has been slow but steady progress in respect of institutionalizing the Caribbean Sea Commission as a key mechanism for ocean governance and sustainable development of the wider Caribbean region and for achieving the goals of the Caribbean Sea Initiative. Much of the effort that has been invested has been directed towards increasing awareness both within the wider Caribbean region and outside of it, regarding the potential role of the Commission in regional ocean governance. Within the wider Caribbean, this has been aimed mainly at engaging countries and partner organizations and achieving support for the Commission. Outside of the wider Caribbean, the focus has been on obtaining financial support. While some support has been forthcoming (see below), it has not been sufficient to effect the establishment of the Secretariat and the commencement of the substantive work of the Commission.

8. Throughout the biennium, the purpose and plans for the Caribbean Sea Commission have been shared in a variety of forums, including:

- United Nations University-Fisheries Training Programme for the Caribbean/ Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism/University of the West Indies (UWI) Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) stock assessment course for CARICOM fisheries officers, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, 23 August-3 September 2010
- Sixty-third Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 1-5 November 2010
- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism multidisciplinary workshop on the common fisheries policy, Georgetown, Guyana, 12-14 April 2011
- Thirty-fifth Scientific Conference of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean, San José, Costa Rica, 23-27 May 2011
- Sixth Global Environment Facility, Biennial International Waters Conference, Dubrovnik, 17-21 October 2011

- Inter-American Seas Research Consortium Kick-Off Symposium, Florida State University, Tallahassee, 8 December 2011
- FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), fourteenth session, Panama City, 6-9 February 2012
- OECS Workshop on Ocean Governance, Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia, 8 and 9 February 2012
- Conference on Sustainable Use of Oceans in the Context of the Green Economy and Poverty Eradication, Monaco, 28-30 November 2011
- Ocean Sciences Meeting 2012, Salt Lake City, Utah, 20-24 February 2012
- Planet Under Pressure: New Knowledge towards Solutions conference, London, 26-29 March 2012

Some of these interactions were initiated by the organization convening the meeting and reflect a growing awareness of the Caribbean Sea Commission in the region and the desire to develop partnerships with it.

9. The Caribbean Sea Commission and the Caribbean Sea Initiative were also promoted within CARICOM in two ministerial-level forums, namely, the fourteenth and fifteenth meetings of the Council for Foreign and Community Relations, and the thirty-seventh special meeting of the Council for Trade and Development; and, at the level of the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government, at their thirty-second regular meeting.

10. The Caribbean Sea Commission will hold a mini-symposium in 2012 for the purpose of better informing countries and international organizations about the Caribbean Sea Commission and gaining their support for its work.

11. These efforts to increase awareness of the role of the Caribbean Sea Commission were supported by the preparation, in partnership with the University of the West Indies, of a policy perspective document entitled "The emerging ocean governance regime in the wider Caribbean region", published in November 2011.

12. There were no meetings of the Caribbean Sea Commission and its bodies during the biennium. The twelfth meeting of the Commission is scheduled to be convened in 2012.

13. The approach to operationalizing the Caribbean Sea Commission continues to be envisaged as being initiated through a first phase with a duration of four years and with a focus on living marine resources of the wider Caribbean region, including their linkages with productive sectors such as fisheries and tourism, and with reference to the threats posed by climate change. The base amount of funding being sought from the international community to implement this start-up over a four-year period is US$ 1.5 million. However, despite the modest sum being sought, and the conservative approach being taken for this initial period, funds have not been available and it has not yet been possible to establish the Secretariat required in order to coordinate the proposed activities of the Commission.

14. Efforts to promote the Caribbean Sea Commission and acquire funding will continue in the next biennium.

15. The emphasis on ocean governance and marine resources at the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 are expected

to heighten awareness of the need for urgent action regarding ocean governance at the regional and global levels. It is anticipated that this heightening of awareness and the gathering momentum of the United Nations regular process for the oceans will facilitate the acquisition of the funds needed for the Caribbean Sea Commission.

International support for the Caribbean Sea Commission (paras. 4 and 12 of General Assembly resolution 65/155)

16. Association of Caribbean States observer members, Turkey and the Republic of Korea have provided significant financial support for the work of the Caribbean Sea Commission in the past biennium. Turkey contributed some US$ 99,990.00 to the Commission, while the Republic of Korea has made US$ 75,725.50 available to the Commission. Both these pledges have supported the operation of the Commission and have proved indispensable to its activities with regard to various projects and missions.

17. The inclusion of the Caribbean Sea in the joint Caribbean-European Union Strategy which has yet to be adopted by the European Union is an indication of growing recognition of the significance of marine issues in the wider Caribbean region.

18. At the twenty-sixth meeting of the CARICOM Council of Ministers held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 3 July 2010, the Executive Secretary of ECLAC affirmed that organization's willingness to give favourable consideration to the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area.

Progress with relevant international agreements (paras. 8 and 11)

19. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) promotes the adoption of some 15 conventions and protocols that deal with pollution prevention and marine management.

20. On 1 May 2011, the discharge requirements for the Wider Caribbean Region Special Area, under Annex V to the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, entitled "Regulations for the prevention of pollution by garbage from ships", took effect. This Area, which includes the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea, had been designated as a Special Area under Annex V to the Convention in July 1991. Most countries in the region have given notice that adequate reception facilities are provided in most relevant ports, so that Special Area status can now be made effective. Under regulation 5 of Annex V, on disposal of garbage within special areas, disposal of all garbage into the sea, including plastics, is prohibited.

21. In the past biennium, IMO undertook several activities in the wider Caribbean which support the implementation of General Assembly resolution 65/155, namely:

- Development of a geographic information system (GIS)-based database on maritime traffic in the wider Caribbean
- Sponsoring of participants from eight countries so as to enable them to attend the 2011 International Oil Spill Conference
- A regional workshop on the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships

- Training on monitoring and enforcement of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments
- A regional workshop on the implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation

22. The activities of the UNEP Caribbean Environmental Programme have also been highly supportive of General Assembly resolution 65/155. These are carried out under the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols. All but three States (Haiti, Honduras and Suriname) have become contracting parties to the Association of Caribbean States Cartagena Convention and the Protocol thereto Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region. The Bahamas is now the sixteenth State in the wider Caribbean region to become a party to the Protocol thereto Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region. Thus, of the now 16 signatories, 15 are ACS members or associate members. The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities came into force on 13 August 2010. Two countries have become contracting parties in the past biennium, making a total of nine.

23. No other Association of Caribbean States country has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in this biennium, leaving a total of 22 ratifications. Similarly, there were no further ratifications of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks ("the Fish Stocks Agreement")[a] in the last biennium, leaving the Association of Caribbean States total at seven ratifications.

Programmes to promote fisheries management and marine biodiversity conservation (paras. 9, 10 and 12)

24. As previously indicated, Association of Caribbean States countries as well as organizations within the region conduct a large number of activities, many of which are at the local and national level, aimed at addressing biodiversity loss in coastal and marine ecosystems. While some of these are focused specifically on marine biodiversity, most take a broader approach to sustainability and include aspects of livelihood and governance. A complete inventory of these is not feasible in the confines of this report, but there are some notable regional efforts that are linked to the Caribbean Sea Commission that can be highlighted.

25. The work of the UNEP Caribbean Environmental Programme, based at the Regional Coordinating Unit in Jamaica, continues to be central to progress with respect to the sustainable use of the marine resources of the wider Caribbean region. Through its responsibility for oversight of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, the Regional Coordinating Unit plays a wide-ranging and critical role in biodiversity conservation, establishment of coastal and marine protected areas, and reduction in marine pollution from land-based and marine sources.

26. Other regional organizations responsible for the sustainable use of living marine resources, such as the CARICOM Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), el Sistema de la Integración Centroamericana (SICA) Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA) and the

[a] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2167, No. 37924.

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (ESDU), continue to strengthen and move towards fuller adoption and implementation of an ecosystem-based approach as a World Summit on Sustainable Development target. On 28 July 2010, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism Ministerial Council approved the Castries (Saint Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing, demonstrating a strong commitment to sustainable fisheries. The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism has made progress towards finalizing its common fisheries policy, which is to be transmitted to the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at its thirty-third regular meeting in July 2012 where it will be considered for final adoption. OSPESCA has continued to promote integrated transboundary governance in the Central American region and has made good progress with respect to lobster and shark management issues, among other marine ecosystem issues. In February 2012, OECS held a consultation on ocean governance as part of its Sustainable Oceans Governance programme, aimed at moving its member States towards integrated ocean governance at a transboundary level.

27. The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions project (2009-2013) (funded by GEF and implemented by the UNESCO/IOC Subcommission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions and UNDP), which involves 26 countries, focuses on transboundary living marine resource governance in the region. This project has a suite of project components that are focused on improved ocean governance. Three of these components relate directly to supporting the Caribbean Sea Initiative and the Caribbean Sea Commission. They include: developing a regional monitoring and reporting process for the oceans and the active development of a science-policy interface for the Caribbean Sea and adjacent areas, both of which recognize the Commission as a key regional policy body for marine affairs. The CLME project has continued to interface with the Caribbean Sea Commission to promote more effective and sustainable ocean governance.

28. The European Union-funded Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE) project (2010-2014) (approximately €10 million) is another substantial regional activity that has also been designed to encompass the recognition that the Commission is a key regional policy body for marine affairs. This project continued in the past biennium and involves 14 European and 7 regional partners. FORCE aims to assess coral reefs at a regional level and to provide policy and management advice to countries and regional organizations. Its structure is such that its policy advice will be developed in the context of the Commission and other regional organizations.

29. Ecosystem-based management is fundamental to both the sustainable use of marine resources and marine biodiversity conservation in the wider Caribbean region. Significant progress towards marine ecosystem-based management by 2010 was a target of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The ecosystem-based approach adopted by the CLME project is now supported by ecosystem-specific transboundary diagnostic analyses for fisheries-related issues. Ecosystem-based management principles have been incorporated into the common fisheries policy that is being developed for CARICOM countries by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and already underlie the programmes and plans of OSPESCA.

30. The Moored fish AGgregating DEvice in the LESser Antilles (MAGDELESA) programme has been co-financed by France and the European Union and aims to develop, together with the scientific teams and fisheries managers of the Lesser Antilles and Haiti, an integrated and participative approach to the sustainable and responsible development of the blooming practice of fishing in the zone utilizing fish aggregating devices. To date, action has been taken towards spreading systems focused on fishing and on inventories of species from Dominica, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Martinique.

31. In the area of protected marine environment support programmes, the Fund for the Global Environment (France) has participated in two projects. The first is the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project. This is geared towards the conservation of biodiversity of global importance to the participating OECS countries by removing barriers to effective management of protected areas, and increasing the involvement of civil society and the private sector in the planning, management and sustainable use of these areas. The second project involves work with UNDP on the marine protected area network in Cuba.

32. The Dominican Republic, in association with Cuba, Jamaica (as observer), Haiti and France and the Environment Directorate of Martinique and Guadeloupe, has promoted the Caribbean Biological Corridor project. This is aimed at "preserving biodiversity and integrating communities into a harmonious development with Nature".

33. Also, protection of marine biodiversity has been the aim of the Agoa Marine Mammal Sanctuary, which covers France's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) in the Caribbean Sea. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and France's Protected Areas Agency have signed a "sister sanctuary" agreement to support the protection of endangered humpback whales that migrate more than 3,000 miles annually between the NOAA Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Massachusetts and the Agoa Marine Mammal Sanctuary in French Antilles in the Caribbean. Both sanctuaries provide support for the same population of whales, which spend spring and summer in the rich feeding grounds of Stellwagen Bank before heading south to the warmer waters of the Caribbean Sea in order to mate and to give birth.

34. The GEF-funded and UNEP-implemented Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) project which focused on inland and coastal impacts on the marine environment concluded in 2011 after implementation of 16 successful pilot projects. A follow-on project to carry forward this work is being planned. The GEF-funded Gulf of Honduras project, which involves Honduras, Guatemala and Belize, seeks to maintain and improve the security and efficiency of international maritime operations and to prevent marine contamination caused by ships, as well as that caused by illegal discharges in terrestrial sources which are highly dangerous and toxic to animal and human life and to the health of marine coastal ecosystems.

35. In 2011, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) completed a study on the benefits and costs of investing in municipal waste management systems in the Caribbean. The study examined two case countries, and found benefit-cost ratios of roughly 10:1 for one country in which municipal waste management systems were developed with special emphasis on the management of ship-generated wastes. The benefits were noted to be high given the high dependence of this country on the coastal and marine resources for the

development of the tourism sector. This study serves to inform further policymaking towards the goal of assisting Caribbean countries in their efforts to protect the Caribbean Sea from degradation.

36. Despite limited progress with the operationalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission owing to a lack of funds, there is a growing recognition of its key potential role as a regional ocean governance body. Increasingly, projects and programmes are being developed to support this role. The expectation is that the activities of the Commission will complement those of the many organizations involved in the sustainable management of oceans in the wider Caribbean region, by serving as a regional policy body that integrates the work of these existing bodies.

Disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery (paras. 13-15)

37. Natural disasters continue to have significant social and economic impacts in Association of Caribbean States countries. The ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, based in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, is a focal organization with regard to disaster management. Its activities include: the conduct of post-disaster assessments; capacity-building activities in addressing disasters; and the preparation of technical information on disasters.

38. Enabling the fulfilment of an agenda in the Caribbean requires a number of actions, including formal recognition by Governments and ministries of education of the importance and urgency of including disaster risk reduction as a priority in the development policy of these ministries. Another priority is the inclusion of disaster risk reduction in school curricula, either through infusion or through stand-alone courses. The scaling up of disaster risk reduction knowledge management, particularly research, to support decision-making is yet another area that requires attention, since knowledge about disaster risk reduction, as both the natural and a social phenomenon, is rapidly expanding.

39. ECLAC conducted economic assessments of the impact of climate change on key vulnerable sectors of several Caribbean countries projected to 2050. Of particular importance to the resolution is the analysis of the coastal and marine sector in the British Virgin Islands and Saint Kitts and Nevis. These assessments provided quantitative information on the costs of the impact of climate change and also attached a monetary value to the various adaptation and mitigation options that were put forward. This information is important in informing strategies to reduce energy use and therefore carbon dioxide emissions, which are particularly harmful to marine species, specifically coral reefs.

Development of human resource capacity (para. 16)

40. There is a full spectrum of initiatives in the wider Caribbean region that contribute to building capacity for sustainable development at many levels, from the local to the regional. These include training for persons from community-based organizations, national Governments and regional organizations. This training takes the form of short courses as well as long-term programmes leading to certification. Capacity-building is offered by non-governmental organizations, Governments, tertiary-level institutions and regional organizations throughout the region, often in partnership with extraregional partners and donors. Some regional examples of short-term training include: training of trainers for marine protected area

management offered by the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network (CaMPAM); capacity-building under the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Fish II Programme; and Socioeconomic Monitoring through Caribbean Challenge MPA Managers training (a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation-funded project). Training offered by IMO is described above.

41. A key point regarding building capacity for regional ocean governance is that it is a multifaceted endeavour. The networking approach that is being developed for the operation of the Caribbean States Commission is designed to facilitate such an approach to capacity-building. While training is an essential aspect, capacity-building goes far beyond training. Much of the learning that needs to be acquired for ocean governance will be best acquired in "learning by doing" mode. Based on the Commission model, partners learn while carrying out joint implementation and capacity-building. This builds adaptive capacity and resilience. Therefore, what is critically needed to make progress based on this comprehensive view of building capacity, is support for moving forward with the operationalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission.

Legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development (para. 18)

42. The financial implications for the operationalization of the Caribbean Sea Commission must be considered at two levels: (a) the operation of the Secretariat and (b) strengthening capacity of ACS member countries and partner organizations to play their role in coastal and ocean governance, as conceived at the expert consultation. A preliminary estimate of the cost of establishing and operating the Secretariat for the first four-year phase, where the focus would be on living marine resources only, is in the order of US$ 1.5 million. This is a minimum estimate of the funds required to get started.

43. The cost implications of strengthening the capacity of ACS member countries and partner organizations to play their role in coastal and ocean governance are far-reaching in terms of acquisition of data and information, analysis and provision of advice and implementation of decisions. However, the Caribbean Sea Commission is not conceived as being responsible for implementing these activities. As emphasized at the expert consultation, implementation would be largely the responsibility of partner organizations. The role of the Commission would lie in coordination and cross-cutting integration. Its role could extend to identifying needs at a regional level and facilitating access to funding by organizations. It would effect a networking of organizations when their interaction could add value to their individual activities. As such, the Commission is conceived of as remaining a small and lean entity with a very specific integrating role at the regional policy level.

44. One important financial aspect of this resolution is the need for a full appreciation of the value of coastal and ocean resources of the wider Caribbean region, in terms of both their use value and their non-use value, which supports tourism and the recreational and cultural activities of local populations. Understanding and accounting for this value are seen as an important component in respect of the elaborating of financial implications. A review of this work in the region carried out by the CLME project indicates that most work has been directed towards coral reefs, especially the benefits of marine protected areas, but that little

effort has been focused on the value of coral reefs as coastal defence. The value of other ecosystems (continental shelf, pelagic) has received little or no attention.

45. Work on defining the legal implications of the resolution is expected to be taken up once the Secretariat is established and the Legal Subcommission becomes fully active.

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International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, 2012

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The International Year of Sustainable Energy for All, 2012, has provided an effective platform for raising global awareness of the importance of sustainable energy and its role in alleviating poverty, reducing inequality and promoting sustainable development. In conjunction with the "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative of the Secretary-General, the observance of the International Year has helped raise the energy issue to the top of the agendas of many national and international decision makers and has sparked unprecedented commitments for action that promise to advance solutions to critical energy issues. Activities and partnerships initiated in 2012 by Member States, international organizations, the private and public sectors and civil society are helping to create an enabling environment at all levels for the promotion of universal access, the more efficient use of energy and increased reliance on renewable energy. Further efforts are now necessary to maintain and capitalize upon the significant momentum generated in 2012.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 65/151, requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with relevant agencies within the United Nations system and UN-Energy, to organize and coordinate activities to be undertaken in 2012, the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All.

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly recognized that access to modern affordable energy services in developing countries was essential for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and sustainable development, which would help to reduce poverty and to improve the conditions and standard of living for the majority of the world's population.

3. The General Assembly also encouraged all Member States, the United Nations system and all other actors to use the International Year as a platform for increasing awareness of the importance of addressing energy issues, including modern energy services for all, access to affordable energy, energy efficiency and the sustainability of energy sources and use, for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development and the protection of the global climate, and to promote action at local, national, regional and international levels.

4. The first section of the present report provides the contextual background of the International Year, which illustrates the importance of addressing energy issues. The following sections provide a comprehensive summary of the related activities and initiatives carried out by the Secretary-General, in conjunction with relevant agencies within the United Nations system and UN-Energy, Member States and other global actors. The final section sets out recommendations for Member States and United Nations entities with a view to sustaining and capitalizing upon the significant momentum generated during the Year.

II. Background on Sustainable Energy for All

5. The world faces urgent and interconnected challenges related to modern energy services. One out of every five people on Earth has no access to electricity or the opportunities that it provides for health, safety and well-being, working, learning or operating a business. Twice as many people — nearly 3 billion — use wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste to cook their meals and heat their homes, exposing themselves and their families to smoke and fumes that damage their health and kill nearly 2 million people a year. Without access to modern energy services, it is not possible to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

6. The availability of adequate, affordable and reliable energy services is essential for alleviating poverty, improving human welfare, raising living standards and, ultimately, achieving sustainable development. Adequate sustainable energy services are critical inputs in providing for human health, education, transport, telecommunications and water availability and sanitation.

7. Achieving sustainable energy for all involves the development of systems that support the optimal use of energy resources in an equitable and socially inclusive manner while minimizing environmental impacts. Integrated national and regional

infrastructures for energy supply, efficient transmission and distribution systems and demand programmes that emphasize energy efficiency are necessary for sustainable energy systems.

8. Where modern energy services are plentiful, the challenge is different. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases resulting from the burning of fossil fuels are contributing to changes in the Earth's climate, to the detriment of all those who depend on the planet's natural systems for survival. Extreme weather events may grow more frequent and intense in rich and poor countries alike, devastating lives, infrastructure, institutions and budgets. Climate change threatens food and water security for hundreds of millions of people around the world, undermining the most essential foundations of local, national and global stability. Competition for scarce resources is increasing, exacerbating old conflicts and creating new ones. As lands degrade, forests fall and sea levels rise, the movement of people driven from their homes by environmental change may reshape the human geography of the planet.

9. Scientists warn that if the world continues on its current path, global temperatures could rise by more than 4 degrees Celsius by the end of the twenty-first century. Such a temperature increase would affect everything from the world economy to human health worldwide and the health of the ecosystems that sustain life on Earth.

10. World challenges — including impacts resulting from climate change, limited natural resources, rapid increases in energy demand and loss of biodiversity — demand a greater reliance on clean sources of energy. The accessibility and affordability of clean energy technologies are key to ensuring sustainable energy for all. Rapid advances in technologies that produce energy from renewable sources and use it more efficiently have made clean energy more affordable and accessible than ever, and technologies are being developed that promise cleaner ways of using fossil fuels. What is needed is a transformation of the world's energy systems to address these interconnected challenges and thus benefit all countries.

III. Activities and initiatives of the Secretary-General

11. In response to and consistent with resolution 65/151, the Secretary-General launched his "Sustainable Energy for All" initiative to mobilize action from all sectors of society to meet these global challenges. The Secretary-General set three interlinked objectives to be achieved by 2030: providing universal access to modern energy services; doubling the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; and doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

12. The Secretary-General's initiative, guided by his High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All and its Co-Chairs, has already catalysed significant commitments to action by Governments, the private sector and civil society in support of the achievement of his three objectives. Those commitments have been made in line with a Global Action Agenda.

A. High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All

13. In September 2011, to guide the work carried out under the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, the Secretary-General appointed a High-level Group on Sustainable Energy for All, comprising distinguished global leaders from around the world. Drawn from the business and financial sectors, Governments, civil society and the United Nations system, the Group has worked to mobilize a broad range of stakeholders who can catalyse commitments and form partnerships in support of achieving sustainable energy for all. It is co-chaired by two leading figures from business and public service: Charles Holliday, Chair of Bank of America, and Kandeh Yumkella, Chair of UN-Energy and Director-General of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

14. The Group was requested by the Secretary-General to develop a Global Action Agenda, a practical road map for how stakeholders from all sectors of society could work together under the initiative to achieve the three objectives established by the Secretary-General, on energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

B. Global Action Agenda

15. The Global Action Agenda was developed and endorsed by the High-level Group in April 2012. It charts a way forward by providing tangible entry points for all stakeholders to take action, linking individual, national, regional and global efforts with the ambitious objectives set for the Secretary-General's initiative.

16. The Global Action Agenda provides a strategy for engagement by Governments, the private sector and civil society. It offers the United Nations as a convening platform where key stakeholders from both developing and developed countries can mobilize bold commitments, foster new public-private partnerships and leverage the significant investments needed to make the transformative changes necessary in the world's energy systems.

17. The Global Action Agenda identifies 11 "action areas", which are designed for the achievement of the initiative's three objectives. These action areas provide a framework for organizing collaborative efforts across all relevant sectors. They also identify sets of high-impact opportunities that will drive progress and catalyse change.

18. The action areas are classified into "sectoral action areas" and "enabling action areas". The sectoral action areas are: (a) modern cooking appliances and fuels; (b) distributed electricity solutions; (c) grid infrastructure and supply efficiency; (d) large-scale renewable power; (e) industrial and agricultural processes; (f) transportation; and (g) buildings and appliances. The enabling action areas are: (a) energy planning and policies; (b) business model and technology innovation; (c) finance and risk management; and (d) capacity-building and knowledge-sharing. Each of the action areas includes a number of high-impact opportunities that Governments, business and civil society can rally around.

19. The implementation plan for the initiative includes the development of a Framework for Action and a communications strategy and plan, and the creation of task forces assigned to assess the achievement of the three major objectives of the initiative.

20. The Framework for Action identifies the value of participation for each major stakeholder group, the benefits of stakeholder collaboration, the structure of the commitment process and the guiding principles of the initiative. It recognizes that progress towards sustainable energy for all can be obstructed by multiple, interlocking barriers and that overcoming those barriers will require multiple, mutually reinforcing actions, appropriate for local circumstances and resource availability. The Framework invites stakeholders to form partnerships, with their separate commitments focused on the common goal of sustainable energy for all.

21. The communications strategy and plan identifies the main communications objectives related to the initiative, including: raising awareness of existing needs, benefits and business opportunities by accomplishing the objectives of the initiative; communicating the business case to the private sector, civil society and Governments in order to drive each towards making meaningful and ambitious commitments; and positioning Sustainable Energy for All as an effective platform for laying out ambitious objectives and bringing the right players together to make meaningful change on the issues of energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy.

22. In summary, the Global Action Agenda charts a path forward for the initiative and its stakeholders. It also aims to help countries and stakeholders create their own pathways towards sustainable energy for all, including technology choices based on their unique national and local circumstances.

23. The Global Action Agenda has already succeeded in accelerating momentum in support of the initiative and resulted in numerous and substantial commitments to action. This progress will be monitored and tracked, and an accountability framework is being developed.

C. Commitments to action

24. Throughout the International Year, significant progress has been made in securing tangible commitments to action in support of Sustainable Energy for All. Those commitments address all three of the Secretary-General's objectives. For example, they include efforts to scale up the production of solar-powered lamps, increase corporate financing for energy efficiency and provide grass-roots training programmes on renewable energy.

25. The initiative benefits from the strong leadership of the Secretary-General and the heads of relevant agencies of the United Nations system, as well as the active support of Governments in every region.

26. Commitments to the initiative announced at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development include the following:

(a) More than 50 developing countries are now participating in the initiative, with more coming on board;

(b) More than $50 billion has been mobilized from the private sector and investors;

(c) Tens of billions of dollars have been committed by multilateral development banks in Asia, Europe and Latin America;

(d) Hundreds of actions have been catalysed and commitments have been made in support of the three core objectives;

(e) Commitments to support energy access will provide more than 1 billion people with access to modern energy during the lifespan of the initiative;

(f) New public-private partnerships are forming on transport, energy efficiency, solar cooking, finance and energy access for the poor.

27. It is important to note that these commitments to Sustainable Energy for All do not replace previous pledges of official development assistance made by Governments. The commitments secured under the Secretary-General's initiative are in addition to traditional pledges of such assistance.

D. Tracking progress

28. **Baseline report**: monitoring progress towards the three objectives is essential to sustaining political momentum over the lifetime of the initiative. Reliable statistics regarding energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy are needed to establish a starting point. With this in mind, the Secretary-General's High-level Group requested that a baseline report be produced. The report will be published in January 2013.

29. The baseline report has three goals: (a) provide an overview of the state of progress towards the achievement of the initiative's three objectives based on available evidence; (b) build consensus among relevant institutions on the most suitable approaches for tracking progress through 2030; and (c) serve as a basis for the production of periodic tracking reports on progress towards each of the three objectives.

30. The preparation of the baseline report is to be coordinated jointly by the World Bank and the International Energy Agency with the support of a steering group comprising other international energy knowledge institutions, including the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, the International Partnership for Energy Efficiency Cooperation, the International Renewable Energy Agency, Practical Action, the Renewable Energy Policy Network for the 21st Century, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Energy Council and the World Health Organization (WHO).

IV. Activities and initiatives of Member States

31. Many activities and initiatives have been undertaken by Member States during the implementation of the International Year, including a series of roll-out events and intergovernmental efforts. Those actions have proved to be very valuable for the formulation of commitments at the national, regional and global levels.

A. Roll-out events

32. **Global roll-out, Abu Dhabi, 16-19 January 2012**: the World Future Energy Summit, organized by the Government of the United Arab Emirates and Masdar

City, served as the global roll-out of the International Year. The conference was attended by more than 25,000 participants, including 3,000 delegates from 148 countries, three Heads of State, ministers, the Secretary-General, heads of intergovernmental agencies and more than 700 exhibitors.

33. **Asian regional roll-out, New Delhi, 1 February 2012**: hosted by The Energy and Resources Institute and the United Nations Foundation, this conference included more than 650 participants and served as the Asian regional roll-out for the International Year. The distinguished speakers included, among others, Farooq Abdullah, Minister of New and Renewable Energy of India and a member of the Secretary-General's High-level Group.

34. **European regional roll-out, Brussels, 8 February 2012**: the European roll-out of the International Year was hosted by the European Parliament and the European Commission, including Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development and a member of the Secretary-General's High-level Group. Thirty European Union, Government, non-profit organization and private sector representatives participated.

35. **African regional roll-out, Nairobi, 18 February 2012**: hosted by UNEP, this conference included more than 100 high-level participants and featured panel discussions focused on energy access, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

36. **Small island developing States roll-out, Bridgetown, Barbados, 7 and 8 May 2012**: UNDP and the Government of Barbados jointly organized a conference for small island developing States on achieving sustainable energy for all and an informal ministerial meeting for such States on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. The conference was attended by Prime Ministers, Deputy Prime Ministers, ministers and senior policymakers from 32 African, Indian Ocean, Pacific and Caribbean small island developing States, as well as representatives of regional organizations, the private sector and civil society, to discuss energy security and sustainability. A primary outcome of the conference was the Barbados Declaration on Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Small Island Developing States.

37. **Pacific regional roll-out, Suva, 18 May 2012**: this conference was organized jointly by the Government of Fiji, the secretariat of the Pacific Community, regional organizations, UNDP and the University of the South Pacific. It raised awareness of the importance of energy security for Pacific small island States.

38. **Nigerian national launch, Abuja, 23 August 2012**: this event was hosted by the Office of the President of Nigeria and organized by UNIDO. The conference included several ministers from the Government of Nigeria and representatives of the private sector and civil society.

B. Intergovernmental efforts in support of Sustainable Energy for All

39. **African Energy Ministers Conference, 15 and 16 September 2011**: African ministers responsible for energy gathered in Johannesburg, South Africa, for a conference entitled "On the road to Durban: promoting sustainable energy access in Africa". Its outcome document, the Johannesburg Declaration, welcomed the International Year and the Secretary-General's initiative.

40. **European Union Sustainable Energy for All Summit, 16 April 2012**: this conference included the launch of the "Energizing Development" initiative by European Commission President José Manuel Barroso. The Commission and the Ministers of Development of European Union member States also underlined their commitment to achieving the Secretary-General's objectives for the Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

41. **Clean Energy Ministerial meeting, 25 and 26 April 2012**: leaders representing the 23 Governments of the Clean Energy Ministerial and the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative outlined specific commitments of participating countries and private sector leaders to promote improved energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and increased energy access around the world. The commitments built upon two years of work by the Ministerial and supported the goal of sustainable energy for all by 2030.

42. **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 20-22 June 2012**: sustainable energy for all was a consistent, high-profile theme throughout the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Several high-level side events on the issue were organized, including a well-attended event held in relation to the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and an Energy Day held on 19 June. Events featured Heads of State and ministers as well as leaders from the private sector and civil society. Significant commitments to action in support of the achievement of sustainable energy for all were announced during several of these forums and were included in the online Conference registry of voluntary commitments. The Conference outcome document also took note of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative and the determination of stakeholders to make sustainable energy for all a reality.

V. Activities and initiatives of international organizations, entities of the United Nations system and other partners

43. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and IRENA are collaborating to assist the work of the Clean Energy Ministerial Multilateral Solar and Wind Working Group through the identification and facilitation of access to available datasets (including in situ and space observations and model data) from WMO programmes and other initiatives involving the organization.

44. WHO is contributing to the Sustainable Energy for All initiative by providing an evidence base regarding the health impacts of energy, as well as tracking systems that monitor access to efficient and renewable fuels and technologies in households and health-care facilities. Key health indicators of progress on sustainable energy include measures for:

(a) Household access to modern, low-emissions heating/cooking technologies;

(b) Energy access at community health facilities, particularly for reliable electricity;

(c) The health burden from air-pollution-related diseases and injuries;

(d) The health equity impacts of energy policies, in terms of the access of poor and vulnerable populations;

(e) Clean electricity generation across the energy supply chain, in terms of reduced pollution, greater efficiencies and reliance on renewable energy sources.

45. The Multi-Partner Programme of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on "Energy-Smart Food for People and Climate" represents the organization's commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Links between energy and food security are now stronger than ever. The food sector accounts for approximately 30 per cent of the world's total energy consumption, with the agrifood chain emitting approximately 20 per cent of total greenhouse gas emissions. The intensification of agriculture must be gradually decoupled from the use of fossil fuels in order to meet both the food needs and the sustainable energy needs of a growing global population.

46. The FAO programme seeks to address those challenges by improving energy efficiency at all stages of the agrifood chain, increasing the use of renewable energy, and improving access to modern energy services through integrated food and energy production. FAO is also leading the development of an international community of practice in this area as well as a facility for the improved coordination of efforts at the national and international levels.

47. As the Vice-Chair of UN-Energy and the host of the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, UNDP has provided extensive policy, resource and staffing support for the Secretary-General's initiative and promoted awareness-raising and action, especially at the country level, in observance of the International Year.

48. UNDP has provided significant support to developing countries to further political momentum in support of sustainable energy for all and the Secretary-General's objectives. UNDP has mobilized the United Nations Resident Coordinator system to facilitate country dialogues and engagement with the initiative, including support for national processes leading to the implementation of countries' sustainable energy priorities and goals. In collaboration with multilateral development banks, the European Union and Norway, UNDP is supporting the preparation of a rapid assessment and gap analysis that, to date, has been initiated or completed by more than 30 countries.

49. In conjunction with the Barbados conference for small island developing States on achieving sustainable energy for all, UNDP hosted a meeting of SIDS Dock, a sustainable energy initiative among the members of the Alliance of Small Island States supported by UNDP and the World Bank. A declaration by Government representatives of SIDS Dock affirmed support for Sustainable Energy for All and SIDS Dock as the vehicle for realizing the objectives of the Secretary-General's initiative.

50. UNDP supported a number of regional events, including roll-out events in Asia (Delhi) and Africa (Nairobi) and thematic workshops, such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency regional workshop on the theme "Accelerating universal energy access through the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency", held in Accra in October 2011, to promote sustainable development in the ECOWAS region and in countries members of the Community.

51. UNDP and the Global Compact jointly encouraged local chapters of the Compact to work in partnership with the United Nations system and host

Governments to contribute to the objectives of the Sustainable Energy for All initiative at the country level.

52. Under the partnership between UNDP and the non-governmental organization Practical Action, four events to launch the *Poor People's Energy Outlook 2012* were held in 2012, in Bangladesh, Kenya, the Sudan and Zimbabwe, in support of the objectives of the International Year and the Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Two additional events took place, in Nepal and Peru, in August 2012.

53. UNDP and the Inter-American Development Bank established a partnership to provide support to countries members of the Bank for the preparation of Sustainable Energy for All rapid assessments and gap analyses. By June 2012, formal requests for this joint support were received from 16 countries, and additional countries have indicated their interest in carrying out gap analysis.

54. UNDP is launching an initiative with the New Partnership for Africa's Development Planning and Coordinating Agency, in collaboration with regional organizations (ECOWAS, the Economic Community of Central African States, the East African Community, the Southern African Development Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa), to develop an institutional framework and programme response with a view to the coordinated planning and implementation of Sustainable Energy for All objectives.

55. Several partnerships supported by UNEP contributed to the International Year and strengthened action in support of Sustainable Energy for All — for example, the Global Efficient Lighting Partnership Programme ("en.lighten") and the Global Bioenergy Partnership.

56. Through the en.lighten initiative, UNEP has brought together Government officials and international lighting experts from more than 40 public and private organizations to provide guidance for countries in developing and implementing successful national efficient-lighting strategies. They have jointly set 2016 as the target year in which to phase out incandescent lamps worldwide while ensuring that efficient replacement lamps meet global minimum standards and spent lamps are disposed of in an environmentally sound manner. To date, 46 countries on four continents have already joined en.lighten, with more expected to become engaged.

57. The Global Bioenergy Partnership, which includes both UNEP and FAO as members, with FAO housing its secretariat, has defined a set of voluntary, science-based sustainability indicators for bioenergy and developed a common methodological framework for measuring and reporting greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from the use of bioenergy. Going forward, the Partnership plans to work on capacity-building activities for sustainable bioenergy.

58. UNEP also organized the African roll-out of the International Year in Nairobi in February.

59. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) is supporting several events related to Sustainable Energy for All. A forum on energy for sustainable development, to be held in Kyrgyzstan from 12 to 14 September 2012, is being organized jointly by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, ECE, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UNDP. The forum is a follow-up to the international energy efficiency forums held in 2010 and 2011 in Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, which included Government ministers and officials responsible for

energy and sustainable development in countries in Central Asia and neighbouring areas. Participants issued a joint statement on the critical role that international cooperation could play in promoting energy efficiency and access to cleaner energy.

60. In May 2012, ESCAP, at its sixty-eighth session, adopted a resolution on connectivity for energy security, in which the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to identify options on regional energy connectivity, including an intergovernmental framework that could be developed for an integrated regional power grid. A report on each option will be presented at the Asian and Pacific Energy Forum to be held in the Russian Federation in May 2013. At the Forum, a ministerial declaration and regional action plan are expected to outline a vision for regional cooperation on energy security and the sustainable use of energy.

61. On this basis, ESCAP is developing the concept of the Asian Energy Highway to provide a regional framework for expanding the transmission system to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy through market mechanisms that support regional integration.

62. As the secretariat for UN-Energy and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has provided valuable support for the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative and for the observance of the International Year. The Department worked on the organization of energy events at the Conference, including the Energy Day. Currently, the Department is leading and coordinating a public-private partnership initiative entitled "Minimum Electricity Access" that supports the electrification of rural isolated communities in Africa, Asia and Latin America. In addition, it is launching a programme for the conduct of comprehensive country assessments on sustainable energy development. The programme supports the enabling action area "energy planning and policies" of the Secretary-General's Global Action Agenda.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

63. **Overall, the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All has been a success. The Year has underscored the central role of sustainable energy as a major factor in alleviating poverty, reducing inequality and curbing environmental risks, including those associated with climate change, while strengthening sustainable development and global prosperity.**

64. **The observance of the International Year has raised global awareness of the importance of energy for sustainable development and has brought the issue to the top of the agenda of decision makers at the national and international levels. Furthermore, it has sparked unprecedented commitments for actions that promise to advance long-term solutions to critical energy issues.**

65. **The International Year also has served as a platform for the building of partnerships among Governments, organizations of the United Nations system, the private sector, civil society and other actors. It has provided an effective forum for the sharing of experiences and good practices to build more inclusive national energy sectors that will improve access to sustainable energy.**

66. **The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and major activities carried out during the International Year, in particular the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative, and the regional roll-outs have**

had an important impact in terms of strengthening the global commitment to advancing the use of sustainable energy. Further efforts are now needed to maintain and capitalize upon the significant momentum generated during the Year.

67. **In the light of the foregoing, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:**

(a) **To further strengthen partnerships with academia, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media and the United Nations system in support of the overall objective of sustainable energy for all;**

(b) **To continue to build on the momentum created, while increasing the awareness of the importance of energy, including modern energy services for all, access to affordable energy, energy efficiency and the sustainability of energy sources and use, and to promote action at the local, national, regional and international levels by utilizing appropriate means at its disposal, including, inter alia, the designation of an International Decade on Sustainable Energy for All.**